



The Applewood Almanac

Spring Edition – 2021

The James Shaver Woodsworth Homestead Foundation
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Applewood's 2021 Events:

We regret that due to the COVID-19 emergency, we cannot plan for our usual spring & summer events (earth day, plant sale, twilight concerts in the park).

Please monitor our web site if restrictions lift later in the year

President's Message

It has been a year since life changed at home, at work, and in public. Masks, distancing, isolation; and for some, severe illness. I hope that you and your loved ones are well in these challenging and unprecedented times. Economic, social, and human adversity will gradually recede as Canada is able to distribute the vaccines developed to protect us from COVID.

The remainder of this Almanac issue will let you know about some of the ways Applewood has been impacted and implemented changes to handle this “new normal.”

Starting almost exactly one year ago, as our last Almanac issue explained, Applewood had to close to all visitors, including marriage couples. As our current street sign shows, we were able to have a limited re-opening for very small weddings mid-summer last year, and provincial regulations have permitted this restricted use until now. As the weather warms, outdoor ceremonies become possible.

The economic impact on our tenants has also been significant. Two of our valued renters decided to give up their offices (Athena Executive Education and Associated Senior Executives). We have been fortunate to welcome two new tenants (Ontario Association for Family Mediation, and Ruth Smith, psychotherapist).



Applewood's own activities have also been reduced in that no house tours or rentals for meetings can be held while provincial restrictions are in force. During COVID, all staff, tenants and wedding couples who enter the building are greeted by a the now-ubiquitous “signage and sanitizer” combination, as the photos on the next page attest. Face masks inside are *de rigueur*, as

they are everywhere these days. Air filters, ventilation, plastic barriers, and disinfection of high-touch surfaces are all employed to further reduce the risk of transmission, and the number of people allowed inside is limited.



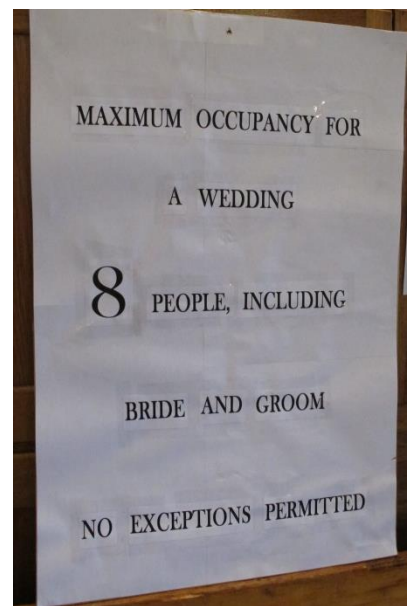
Hand sanitizer and masks at the entrance.



Guests keep their distance during weddings.



Officiants stand behind a plastic screen during the ceremony.



Sign of the times!

Heartfelt congratulations go out to our staff and officiants who are managing the changes that have had to take place for us to hold wedding ceremonies. Many venues in the city that would hold weddings in the past are still closed. Our office is open three days a week (Mon, Wed, and Fri) by appointment only, and we can accommodate small weddings when requested.

Many changes in our wedding accommodations will revert to normal as the majority of Canadians are vaccinated and we can have more than few attendees permitted by the changing

provincial regulations. However, some changes at Applewood are improvements that will stay with us from now on.

One of the most significant improvements that Applewood has made is in our banking and payment systems. We can now accept and receive electronic payments and transfers, and this includes your annual membership (still only \$25), or any donations (see following article).

The slow-down in activities triggered by the pandemic is also being used as a time for undertaking renovations and repairs that “our old house” is needing. Something to rejuvenate the front and side porches is needed to address the aging paint job and the occasional rainwater seepage into the basement. Window cleaning and repair is on our “to-do” list, along with some professional attention to the gardens around the homestead.

Our dedicated staff and volunteers are also lending a hand to general file-sorting and clean-up that have produced dozens of boxes of old bills, receipts, and general correspondence going back 40 years. We’ve kept the past decade in our records room, and shredded the rest to keep the shelves from overflowing.

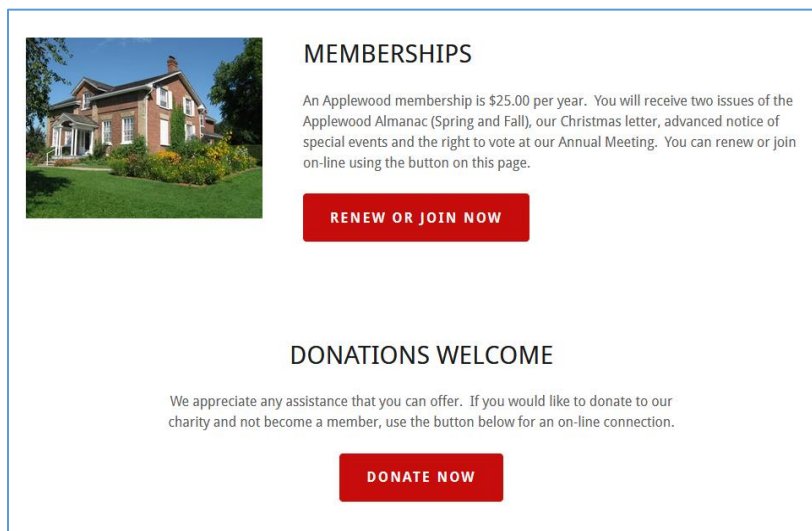
Please take a moment to read the rest of our “Pandemic Almanac”, and don’t forget to renew your membership in the venerable James Shaver Woodsworth Homestead Foundation!

Stay well.

- Dave Young, President

Our Improved Web Site

As part of the modernization of our business systems undertaken in part because of the burden of handling paper and money during the current pandemic situation, we have made our web site into a hub where you can see the latest news about Applewood, and where you can easily renew your membership at the click of a button.



The screenshot shows a website interface with a blue border. On the left is a photograph of a large, two-story brick house with a white porch. To the right of the photo is the heading "MEMBERSHIPS" followed by a paragraph: "An Applewood membership is \$25.00 per year. You will receive two issues of the Applewood Almanac (Spring and Fall), our Christmas letter, advanced notice of special events and the right to vote at our Annual Meeting. You can renew or join on-line using the button on this page." Below this text is a red button with white text that says "RENEW OR JOIN NOW".

Below the membership section is the heading "DONATIONS WELCOME" followed by a paragraph: "We appreciate any assistance that you can offer. If you would like to donate to our charity and not become a member, use the button below for an on-line connection." Below this text is another red button with white text that says "DONATE NOW".

You simply go to the site www.applewoodshaverhouse.ca and click the “Membership and Donations” tab to get to the new page shown on the left. From there you can click “Renew or Join.” You’ll then be taken to a secure screen where you can enter your personal information for your tax receipt, enter your credit card number, and complete your renewal (and any donation). You will immediately receive a tax

receipt by email from our partner “CanadaHelps” showing the Applewood Shaver Receipt Confirmation that you can submit with next year’s taxes. This modern transaction approach is the way to go if you have a computer and are comfortable with internet platforms. If you are not a fan of doing things this way, you can always use the enclosed form (or just download and print

it from the bottom of the Memberships web page). You can renew your membership term by mailing the form and a cheque to us the old way. We'll send back your receipt by mail too.

I would be remiss not to point out that our new page also has a "Donate Now" button that you can use anytime – no need to wait until renewal season! Seriously, though, we are grateful for your membership in our organization and any support you choose.

Our Expanding Board

We don't know if it is coincidence or COVID, but the past couple months have brought us an embarrassment of riches in the form of three enthusiastic volunteers to become new Applewood board members. Let me introduce them.



Louise Uba grew up in Toronto and is a former lecturer at Humber College and an internet expert. Louise is now a realtor with a busy practice in the area. Louise's proficiency in all things media- and publicity-oriented will be a valuable resource for Applewood as we look to rebuild and expand our clientele after the pandemic.



Rymal (Ry) Smith has an interesting connection to Applewood. Peter Shaver, builder of the homestead in 1851, was Ry's great-great-great-great uncle! Small world. In addition to his family connection, Ry has a great love of historic buildings and their conservation. Ry currently works in the sustainable energy field.



Mary Greco is an avid history and antiques buff whose endeavours have included volunteering at the Kawartha Settlers Village (in Bobcaygeon). She currently belongs to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Historical Society. Since Mary lives in the area, she would love to be involved in a local historical gem – our own Applewood-Shaver House.

A very warm welcome to all the new Board volunteers from all the old ones!

Look for a confirmation of our Applewood Annual General Meeting, tentatively set for the evening of July 7. This AGM will serve to cover the business of last year's and this year's meetings, because of the COVID cancellations and delays that have taken place. Since gathering restrictions are not likely to have been lifted by summer, our AGM will probably take place through the magic of an internet conferencing service like ZOOM.