



# The Applewood Almanac

## Spring Edition – 2022

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### Applewood's First 2022 Events:

**Earth Day & Tree Planting: Friday April 22, 11am**

**“Doors Open” tours & spring Plant Sale: Sunday May 29, 10am – 5pm**

**Applewood Annual General Meeting: Wed June 15, 7:00 pm**

**1st Twilight Concert in the Park: Wed June 22, 7:00 pm**

**Concerts 2, 3, &4: Wednesdays on July 6, 20, & Aug 3, at 7:00 pm**

### President's Message

This month of March marks two years since COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic. Back in 2020, no one could have imagined how it would change our world forever. The past two years have been difficult for everyone, Applewood included. With the first hint of spring approaching, there is the promise of normal times returning as we carefully relax our pandemic restrictions.

Words cannot do justice to the courage and dedication of our small staff in getting Applewood through the ordeal. With safeguards in place, they carried on business with an ever-changing regimen of rules – and sometimes closures – to follow for the reduced services we were able to offer. Marriage ceremonies dropped to less than a quarter of normal, as did the resulting revenue. Indoor meetings had to be cancelled. Four of our five tenancies came to an end, but fortunately we were able to find four great new occupants through contacts and word-of-mouth.

The past two years brought other changes too. Long-time Applewood stalwarts, house coordinator Debbie Tait, and marriage coordinator Ann Wilson, both decided to take well-deserved retirements. Our remaining staff compliment of only two – newly-appointed house administrator Jennifer Flaxman, and long-standing property manager Terry Faichnie were augmented mid-pandemic by Terry's sister Jo, who has taken on regular office day-duties with a special interest in garden revitalization (see her article below). These three have been amazing during the emergency, and all can handle the intricacies of marriage arrangements whenever a couple contacts us.

Our list of changes includes the diligent volunteers serving as Directors on the Applewood Board. Long-time helpers Doug Willoughby and Odile Sahl retired from the board, but new directors Rymal Smith and David Sandford joined us. We also gained Louise Uba's enthusiastic contributions to the Board and house décor before her planned move out of the City led to an additional vacancy. Are there any others out there interested in joining our Board?

The COVID hiatus did give us the opportunity to tackle some major projects around Applewood that would have been every disruptive during a normal summer. The biggest project was an

excavation of the old weeping tiles along the east side of the house. We installed a new sump pump and drainage pipe to solve the recurring issue of a damp basement during the occasional monsoon downpours that seem to have “climate changed” their way into Toronto life. As you’ll see from the photos below, this was a major undertaking to improve the foundations of our Foundation!



Basement waterproofing and drainage work, Aug 2021.

Other maintenance projects during COVID were tackled by property-manager Terry, including refurbishment and painting of all the storm windows, and a makeover of the front porch, whose original pillars were badly in need of re-lamination and painting. Oh, and did I mention a major tidy-up of the basement storage areas while the house was all quiet below stairs?



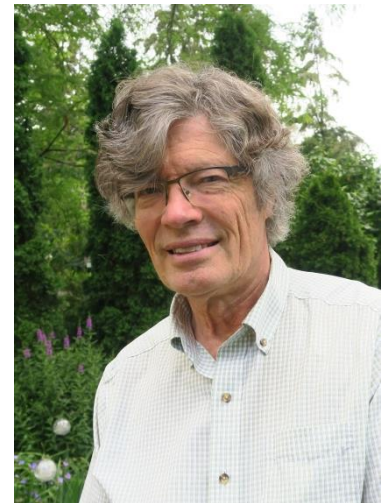
Deteriorated storms and delaminated pillars receive attention while COVID puts other Applewood summer events on hold. One-by-one, the front posts were removed, repaired, and repainted by Terry so that they could resume holding up the front porch for another hundred years!

The lull in activities throughout 2020-2021 also allowed time to implement several Applewood business improvements, like the QuickBooks financial tracking system, several online banking improvements, and an upgraded WiFi system in the house that can facilitate the now-ubiquitous ZOOM connections that guests want to use for their meetings or events.

While our familiar summer concerts were cancelled during COVID, there were poignant visits on Canada Day by individuals from the Etobicoke Community Concert Band. They marked the day with a rendition of Oh Canada for the few who happened to pass by at that time.

Finally, as a point of self-deprecating humour to mark the period, remember COVID Hair? Those times when barber shops and hairdressers were closed for months? Remember Mayor Tory's and Prime Minister Trudeau's pandemic mop-tops? Relevant to the historical record, I offer a photo of yours-truly to mark the passing of an era, hopefully for good.

- Dave Young, President



A subdued Canada Day ceremony by the ECCB; and how many of us looked in 2021.

### **Gardening News**

As you will have seen in the photos of foundation work in the previous article, much of Applewood's garden area has been disrupted by excavations. This follows several years of not having enough volunteers to keep the gardens looking magnificent. But the picture is changing as we plan to put the gardens back to their glory with the help new volunteers and gardeners.

The long rectangular garden will be moved back a bit as the black walnut tree roots are causing upheaval. Part of the north end of that garden will be moved to the south end. We plan a brick walkway through the middle for easier viewing and tending, and the old plow will become the centerpiece for this display. We are looking to have Victorian flowers planted throughout. This will probably be a two-year project, with removal of the north end to be done this year, and the addition to the south end of the garden next year.

The big circular area will be put back to being an herb garden as was originally intended. Our old water pump will be the center feature of this garden. The area between the sidewalk and the east wall of the house (which was completely excavated during the waterproofing), will be planted with colourful annuals to bring attention to that part of the gardens. The replanting will

continue along the south side of the house (the original front). Again, Victorian flowers will be showcased there.

Sometime in mid- to late-April, I want to hold a planting meeting for the volunteers, and any other interested persons. I have been contacted by Tamara Lopez on behalf of herself and Richard to be volunteers for this project. I am putting forward a plea for help. I need as many volunteers as can be found. If you can give any time at all, please contact me (Jo) at 416-622-4124 to be added to the list and to be contacted once a date for the meeting is arranged.

Thank you all.

- Jo Faichnie, the “Garden General”

### **Jean Berry Celebrates Her 90<sup>th</sup>**

Long-time member and volunteer Jean Berry celebrated her 90th birthday in late August with family and friends in the Barrie area. Rob and Gay Evans attended the party organized by Jean’s daughter Lianne, and carried Applewood’s best wishes to this wonderful lady. Jean originally joined the Applewood Furnishing’s Committee, along with Lorraine Dunsmuir, Gay Evans and Doug Willoughby, in the early 1980’s, under Past President Dennis Mills. She and the other members were instrumental in the acquisition of most of the current furniture, wallpaper, carpeting, etc. that we so proudly display to this day. Jean remained an active volunteer for over 30 years thereafter, and continues to keep in touch with members from her current home in Barrie. We wish Jean many more Happy Birthdays in the future and thank her for her dedicated service to Applewood.



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Look for details of the Applewood General Meeting as we get closer to the date. Current plans are to hold a “hybrid” meeting both at the Homestead, and by ZOOM video conference. You can pick the way that suits you best. The date will be Wednesday June 15, at 7 p.m.

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### **Applewood’s Web site – Get the latest event news at the click of a button!**

Remember, as part of our modernizations, you can now go to the Applewood web site [www.applewoodshaverhouse.ca](http://www.applewoodshaverhouse.ca) and click the “Membership and Donations” tab to renew your membership or make a donation for 2022 (if you have not already done so). You’ll be taken to a secure screen where you can enter your information for your tax receipt, enter a credit card number, and complete your transaction. 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.