



Friends of the Central Experimental Farm

Summer 2013 Newsletter

Volume 25 No. 3





THE GOVERNOR GENERAL • LE GOUVERNEUR GÉNÉRAL

I am pleased to extend sincere congratulations to the staff and volunteers of the Friends of the Central Experimental Farm as you gather to celebrate its 25th anniversary.

Canadians are known throughout the world for their compassionate efforts to make a difference in the lives of others. As a country, we would not have this reputation without the tireless work of people like you who have committed themselves to making their community a better place.

All those involved in building this organization into what it has become today deserve to be recognized for their skills and dedication; your generosity, both of time and heart, is truly remarkable. Let this occasion be an opportunity to recognize the values of service, humility and friendship that you so frequently demonstrate and to which we all aspire.

I wish you a most enjoyable celebration as you mark this momentous milestone.

David Johnston

May 2013



PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to the members of Friends of the Central Experimental Farm on the occasion of its 25th anniversary.

Over the past 25 years, your members have devoted their time, energy, and enthusiasm to maintaining the beauty and character of this historic green space —one of the city's most treasured public sites. Whether by working in the office, taking part in fundraising events, or tending to the gardens, you have had a huge positive impact on the Farm and the public's enjoyment of it. I would like to join with the community and countless visitors from near and far in thanking you for your voluntarism and dedication to this worthwhile endeavour. Your contributions are deeply appreciated.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I offer you my best wishes for a memorable anniversary celebration.

The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.

OTTAWA
2013

President's Message

Greetings to all members, volunteers and supporters of the Friends of the Central Experimental Farm as we celebrate our 25th anniversary. We salute the hundreds of members and volunteers over the years, from those important pioneers who got the organization going to the new members and volunteers we welcome this year.

The partnership we began with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in 1988 remains strong, as we continue to help the grounds staff and work on our projects to protect and enhance the Farm, and to make more and more people aware of this treasure in our city.

We should be proud of the Friends' accomplishments over 25 years. There are far too many achievements to mention here – you can see a list of some memorable dates on Page 10. One project, for example, that spanned many years was the mapping of the Arboretum, and those maps are still useful today. And, thanks to the considerable effort of volunteers, we have today one of the finest peony collections in North America and probably the largest assembly of *Villosae* group lilacs.

Another important ongoing volunteer project is the Merivale Shelterbelt, which marks the western boundary of the Farm. Opened by Governor-General Adrienne Clarkson, it will soon be protecting the fields from salt and wind.

To raise funds and promote our goals, volunteers have helped at the former Chrysanthemum Show, created beautiful crafts, hosted silent art auctions, art exhibitions, plant and book sales, and Victorian teas, and guided many very popular bus tours to various gardens and other places of interest.

I wish it were possible to mention all those people who have been involved over our first 25 years, but although we don't have space to list names, we thank them all for their achievements. They have laid a solid foundation. Let's build on it!

Chuck Craddock

Twenty-Five Years!

In the late 1980s, there was uncertainty about the future of the non-research areas of the Central Experimental Farm. Peter Elliott, who had organized the centennial celebrations for the Farm, proposed a partnership between Agriculture Canada and a non-profit volunteer organization that would support the Farm.

A former chemical technologist at the department, former president of the Ottawa Tulip Festival, founding member and former president of the Friends of the Rideau Canal, Peter won support for the idea from departmental executives. In 1988, the Friends of the Central Experimental Farm organization was incorporated and a first board meeting held.

Getting people on board

Peter invited some retiring senior executives at Agriculture and others to form a first Board of Directors, and "Bob Cook agreed to be our first President," wrote Peter. "Bob, who had been a senior advisor to Bill Davis, Premier of Ontario, had recently retired as General Manager of the St. Laurence Parks Commission."

The Friends' first display was at the 1988 Central Canada Exhibition in Ottawa and about 60 members signed up. Another 300 joined at the Friends' booth at the Chrysanthemum Show that year. It was a great start. "We had funds to work with, lots of willing volunteers and ideas to pursue," wrote Peter.


Peter served as General Manager of the Friends until his retirement from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) in 1995. Soon after, the Friends hired Norah Campbell to run the office and manage the challenging transition to becoming self-sufficient.

Peter's story of the beginning and early days of the Friends was published five years ago in the 20th anniversary issue of this newsletter, which can be found on our website www.friendsofthefarm.ca/newsletters.htm.

In 1998, after efforts by the Friends and AAFC, the Farm was officially declared a National Historic Site and Cultural Heritage Landscape. Edwinna von Baeyer (Page 6) discusses the importance of this designation, and how the Friends of the Farm must continue to be vigilant in the face of ongoing threats to the Farm.

Many people have generously gifted their time and energy over the years and deserve our thanks. And a special salute goes to Diana Dakers-Ryan, who ran our events so effectively and with such good cheer for over 14 years, and contributed so much in many other ways to the Friends of the Farm.

It was Diana who got Valerie Cousins involved in the Friends. Valerie writes on Page 8 about what being a Friend of the Farm has meant to her and what an organization like the Friends can achieve. And what does the future hold for the Farm? Eric Jones offers his thoughts on Page 12.

 Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada
Deputy Minister Sous-ministre
Ottawa, Ontario Ottawa (Ontario)
K1A 0C5 K1A 0C5

Message from the Deputy Minister

Congratulations to the Friends of the Central Experimental Farm on your 25th anniversary!

The Central Experimental Farm is a landmark in our nation's capital because of your many contributions.

Each year, over half a million people from Canada and around the world visit the Farm's gardens, Arboretum and landscapes and participate in many activities that allow people to understand Canadian horticulture. I greatly appreciate your hard work in promoting and raising awareness of the Farm and its heritage value, and in helping to establish its designation in 1998 as a national historic site by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

Over the past quarter of a century, the Friends of the Central Experimental Farm has collaborated with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) grounds staff in the restoration and preservation of the gardens and the Arboretum, while taking a leading role in the building of the Merivale Shelterbelt. As well, congratulations on publishing the history of the Farm and the trees of the Arboretum.

On behalf of AAFC and the Government of Canada, thank you for all that you do for the Central Experimental Farm. Your dedication and endless hard work are greatly appreciated.



Suzanne Vinet
Deputy Minister, AAFC



Peter Elliott (centre) receives instructions from Robert Cook, first president of the Friends of the Farm, and Penny Gould on cooking a Grade "A" hot dog, at a fall party at the Farm in 1989. Members of the Friends enjoyed a warm October Sunday which featured a barbeque, a Farm Mystery Tour and rides on the Tally-Ho wagon and an oxen-drawn cart.

Ce bulletin est publié en français, et on peut
le consulter sur notre site Web à :
www.friendsofthefarm.ca/newsletters.htm.
Special thanks to our translator, Lise Anne James.

Upcoming Events

For more information, visit www.friendsofthefarm.ca or call 613-230-3276.

Bus Tour to Mont Tremblant

Friday, July 12. SOLD OUT

Victorian Tea

- Sunday, July 14*, 2 to 4 pm.
- Classic tea served under the trees of the Arboretum.
- Bring a patio chair and listen to live music.
- Enter the best hat contest and don period costume (not required).
- Location: Building 72, CEF Arboretum.
- Admission and parking free; formal tea \$8.



***Note date change.**

This event is now held in July.

10-Mile Cowpattie Relay and Run on the Farm

- Wednesday, July 17, 6:30 pm.
- Join the Friends of the Farm and the Run Ottawa Club for a runner's challenge.
- Take part in a 10-mile run or relay at the Central Experimental Farm.
- Location: Morningside Lane, CEF.
- Visit www.runottawacub.com for more information on the race and how to register.



Art on the Farm

- Saturday, August 17, 10 am to 4 pm.
- Artists will display and sell their original works under the trees of the CEF.
- Location: Arboretum, near Building 72, east of the Prince of Wales roundabout.
- Free admission and parking.

25th Anniversary Celebration

- Saturday, September 14, 11 am to 3 pm.
- CEF Arboretum (see below).

Annual General Meeting

- Wednesday, September 18, 7 pm.
- Guest speaker is Gay Cook, food columnist, popular author, expert in Canadian cuisine (see below).
- Location: Three Sisters Hall, 2nd floor, Learning Centre, Canada Agriculture and Food Museum, CEF. (Check the Friends' website for details.).
- All are welcome. You do not have to be a member to attend.



Join us for a 25th Anniversary Celebration!

What would a birthday be without a party? Join your Friends in a birthday celebration.

Saturday, September 14, 2013, 11 am to 3 pm - Arboretum, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa

Admission by Donation - (Rain Date - Sunday, September 22, 2013)

Program

11 am - Noon **Children's Hour**
Clown, face painting, giant bubble making, paper airplane making, colouring contest, three-legged and sack races

11 am - Noon **Guided Tour of the Arboretum**

Noon - 1 pm

Noon - 2:30 pm

1 pm - 3 pm

Picnic Hour

Pack a picnic lunch (and something to sit on) and join us for an old-fashioned picnic under the trees. We'll be serving up cake and lemonade at 12:30 pm

Container Gardening Demonstration

Entertainment by local musicians

There will also be a raffle (by donation) in support of the Friends of the Central Experimental Farm

Gay Cook, Guest Speaker, 2013 AGM

We are delighted to have Gay Cook, food columnist and popular author, as speaker at our Annual General Meeting in September. The topic of her speech will be Canadian cuisine.

Born and raised in Ottawa, Gay grew up in a family steeped in the world of Canadian food and restaurants. After her graduation from Ryerson Polytechnic Institute in hotel resort and restaurant administration, Gay worked in kitchens across Europe, the United States and South America.

She began hands-on cooking schools in Toronto and Ottawa, and in 1990 started Mrs. Cook's Foods, a wholesale fruitcake manufacturer. The fruitcake recipe was created for King George VI's birthday, celebrated in Ottawa in 1939 by Morrison Lamothe, the food company founded by her father, Cecil Morrison.

A Gay Cook Bursary is offered each year to Algonquin College students. She volunteers at the Debra Dynes Community House and, with her sister Grete Hale, regularly offers auctioned dinners for fundraising events.

Gay serves on the boards or advisory committees of various organizations, including Savour Ottawa, which promotes local culinary tourism by bringing local farm produce to area chefs and connecting people to their food sources, and Canadensis, Ottawa's future Botanical Garden.

Her husband, the late Robert A. Cook, was the first president of the Friends of the Central Experimental Farm.

Wednesday, September 18, 7 pm
Three Sisters Hall, 2nd floor,
Learning Centre, Canada Agriculture
and Food Museum, CEF.

A Snapshot of Our Volunteers

The Friends of the Farm has more than 150 active volunteers. Some work in the gardens, others in the office, while others enjoy helping at events. Whether it's once a year or throughout the year, every contribution is highly valued and deeply appreciated. But it's equally important that our hardworking volunteers enjoy their time at the Farm and gain some personal satisfaction. Here's what some of them have to say about why they return year after year.

One of our longest-serving volunteers, 22 years and counting, **Audrey Pullan** joined the Friends at the suggestion of her husband George, who thought it would be something "fun to do together in retirement." Strictly an armchair gardener, Audrey was dubious about the "fun" aspect of his proposal, but willing to give it a try. A founding member of the Lilac Team, she can still be found tending the lilac rows in the summer. Audrey has developed a real affection for gardening, but the real object of her affection is the people she has met and the lasting friendships she has formed as a volunteer.

Although a layoff can be devastating, sometimes there is a silver lining. For **Chris Hindle**, it was finally having time to fulfill a wish to work at the Farm. One of our newest volunteers, Chris returns for a second season on the Friends' Hosta Team. He welcomes "the great opportunity to be part of something that is such a big part of our lives in this city." Chris says that a big benefit of volunteering is "meeting people who are so knowledgeable about gardening and willing to share that knowledge. You can learn things that are important to your own garden care." There's also the benefit of working outdoors, "literally being part of the earth." Chris joined the Hosta Team in the midst of the construction of a new retaining wall and proved a valued addition, shouldering much of the heavy work to remove, move and replant 150 hostas.

Like many student volunteers, **Ben Pascolo-Neveu** joined the Friends of the Farm to fulfill the requirement for 40 hours of community service. Seven years and several hundred hours of helping at fundraising events later, Ben remains a committed volunteer. What

keeps him returning? "The opportunity to talk to people with more life experience, to interact with people at events. It's familiar, it's fun, and I really enjoy the work and the people I meet."

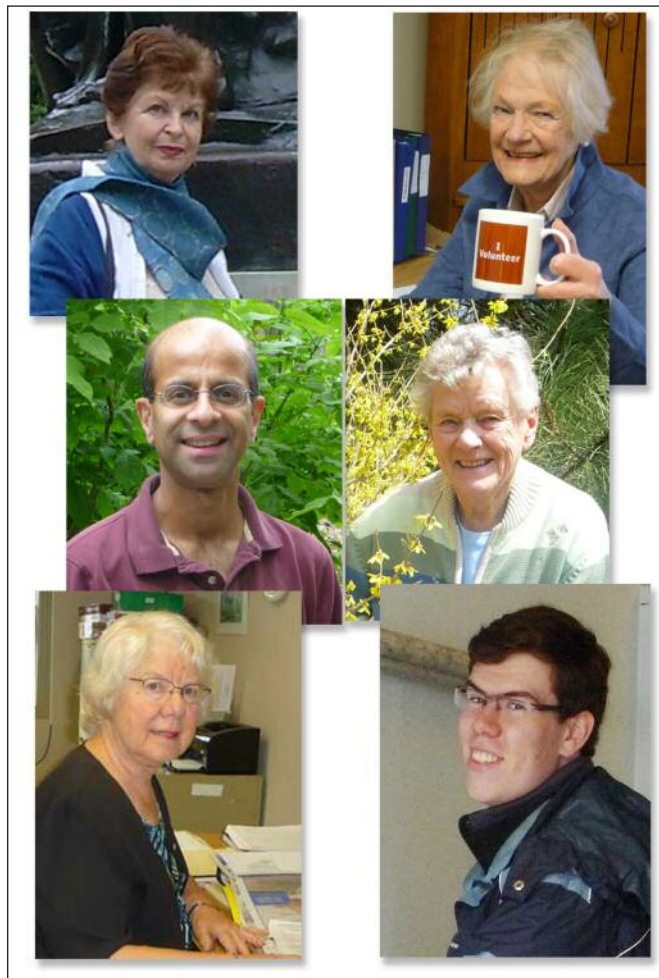
After attending a fundraiser in 2000 where "everyone looked like they were having fun," **Cathy Ternan** signed up as a volunteer. Thirteen years later, the Friends' resident volunteer publicist says that her initial impression still holds true: "I've had fun, I like the contact with people, and there's still that great enjoyment of working in such a beautiful environment."

Lise Anne James plays a special role as a Friends' volunteer, a very important role, but one that seldom gets much attention. As a French translator, she has kindly donated her expertise to translate portions of our newsletter. Retired from the federal government in 2010, Lise Anne spotted an ad from Volunteer Ottawa seeking a translator for the Friends of the Farm. "I'd love to do that," she remembers saying to herself. Three years later, it's proven "a wonderful change from translating government policy," says Lise Anne, who loves working with words and, in the case of the Friends, finding just the right ones to convey the (English) meaning "in an elegant way."

When **Sally Hill** worked at Carleton University, she would ride her bike through the Farm en route to the office. She occasionally chanced upon the garden teams, and remembers thinking that "it looked like good fun." An avid gardener,

when Sally retired, she headed to the Farm and to the Perennial Team where she served five years as team leader, and remained a committed team member until her knees protested against the bending and kneeling. Computer literate and hard working, last year Sally was snapped up to help in the office, and is now responsible for inputting volunteer hours. Although happy to continue as a Friends' volunteer, Sally misses gardening and highly recommends the experience. "It's one of the few volunteer opportunities to work outdoors. For the most part it's easy work: no stress, no mess. But for me, it's always been about the people. Our garden teams are great fun and people are happy to share their experiences."

Mary Ann Smythe



(Top) Lise Anne James, Sally Hill;
(middle) Chris Hindle, Audrey Pullan;
(bottom) Cathy Ternan, Ben Pascolo-Neveu

Polly McCall, Rodger James

The Farm – A Proud Member of the Distinguished Family of National Historic Sites

by Edwinna von Baeyer

R. Hinchliff



3. Since its establishment in 1886, the Central Experimental Farm has made significant scientific contributions to agriculture in Canada by uniting scientific experimentation with practical verification, as exemplified by the development of the hardy strains of wheat that were so influential in expanding Western Canadian agriculture
4. It is a rare example of a farm within a city
5. It has become a symbol of the central role agriculture has played in shaping the country.

This complex site, which has survived surprisingly intact, comprises important landscapes (the Arboretum, experimental fields, plots, shelterbelts, ornamental gardens), historic buildings, memorials and collections.

Helping to keep the stories alive

The Central Experimental Farm has been a National Historic Site for 15 years. National historic sites commemorate a significant person, place or event that relates to heritage of national significance. Each site is unique. A historic site can be as small as a monument, as large as a city district, or as enormous as an aboriginal cultural landscape. These designated sites (1,600 and growing) preserve important tangible and intangible aspects of our heritage and, in doing so, help us understand our history, celebrate our heroes and define our values.

A national historic site can highlight built heritage (buildings, bridges, canals, hospitals); landscapes (parks, gardens); archeological sites (burial grounds, prehistoric rock paintings); or events (battles, establishment of important Canadian organizations or social movements). Or, a national historic site can also be a cultural landscape, which is often a complex mixture of physical remains and natural formations that were changed and adapted by the people who live or have lived in it (aboriginal hunting grounds, the Rideau Canal corridor).

Why the Farm was declared a National Historic Site

In the case of the Farm, the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada found the Farm to be important on many levels, both locally and nationally, and identified five key features in its reasons for designation:

1. Its distinctiveness as a cultural landscape
2. The more than 400-hectare farm in the heart of the Nation's Capital reflects the 19th century philosophy of agriculture and carefully integrates an administrative core and a range of other buildings with Arboretum, Ornamental Gardens, display beds and experimental fields in a picturesque composition

The designation of the Farm helps tell the site's story, of its importance to the building of our nation. For example, the development of Marquis wheat stimulated the settlement of the West; cold storage and shipping technique research helped support the rise of the horticultural industry; the development of effective insect and disease controls provided larger fruit, vegetable and field crops that fed a growing nation; and plant-hardiness research pushed our agricultural and horticultural areas further north. The designation honours the people (famous and not so famous) who did the research and who disseminated the resulting knowledge to Canada's agricultural and horticultural communities. This history is "read" on the landscape of fields, gardens and buildings. Research was at its core and remains the focus today.

It seems obvious to anyone interested in preserving our heritage that a site so significant in so many ways should be protected from inappropriate change. However, this was not always the case. Threats from developers and well-meaning people who only saw open, unused land ripe for development of all kinds – from apartment blocks to botanic gardens – have been ongoing. As threats to the site's integrity became more serious, the community, along with many government officials, and the FCEF believed it was urgent that the Farm receive more significant protection, that is, federal designation under the *Historic Sites and Monuments Act*. Through the concerted effort of the FCEF, Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada, Parks Canada, the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC), Heritage Ottawa, community organizations and private citizens, the designation finally became a reality in 1998.

During this process, the Farm's story was told to a new audience. Through outreach and education, the greater

continued on page 7

community began to understand what a precious heritage site we have in Ottawa. Greater awareness is important because designation itself does not provide complete protection from inappropriate change. Enter the community volunteer!

Power in working together

Volunteers, always important activists in heritage protection, were major participants in this process. The struggle is not finished, however. For example, Leslie Maitland, president of Heritage Ottawa, observes: “urban development in the form of intensification is going to start to affect the periphery of the Farm in the near future.” Despite ongoing threats, the Farm is better protected because of the support of a wide range of community organizations in Ottawa that understand that power comes from working together. Certainly, the FCEF “stands on guard” to ensure the Farm’s heritage is not compromised.

One of the results of the struggle to protect the Farm, in addition to federal designation, was the adoption of the Central Experimental Farm National Historic Site Management Plan. The plan

provides detailed guidelines to manage “the Central Experimental Farm both as a Nation Historic Site and as an active research landscape.”

Another outcome was the establishment of the Central Experimental Farm Advisory Committee, which comprises representatives from heritage and community organizations (volunteers), Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada, as well as the FCEF. The Committee meets twice a year to raise a wide range of issues concerning the site, including threats to heritage buildings and landscapes, as well as non-heritage issues – all to ensure public participation in important matters related to the Farm as a National Historic Site.

Keeping vigilant to preserve a precious legacy

The role of the volunteer organization, such as the FCEF, in preserving heritage is very important. In fact, as has been noted, founder Peter Elliot formed the organization because he saw a threat to the Farm’s survival in the late 1980s. Other Ottawa organizations also help guard the site. For example, Heritage Ottawa has a Heritage Keeper assigned to

the Farm as part of its Heritage Keeper Program. The volunteer keepers, assigned to various major Ottawa neighbourhoods, play an important role in monitoring their areas as well as playing wider roles in keeping communications open between Heritage Ottawa and community groups, and help these organizations in any effort to safeguard Ottawa’s heritage.

Volunteers are on the frontlines of protecting Canada’s heritage – site by site. Their activism helps keep our stories alive for future generations and ensures that we have access to these embodiments of our past, a precious legacy that helps us define what it is to be Canadian.

At the Farm, the FCEF’s group of dedicated volunteers are well aware of their continuing role in not only maintaining the historic horticultural collections, but also in promoting awareness of the site’s heritage. Threats to the integrity of the Farm will never completely disappear, thus the FCEF and others must remain vigilant and ready to act when necessary.

Edwinna von Baeyer, a former member of the Friends’ Board of Directors, is an Ottawa writer and editor who specializes in Canadian landscape history. Her most recent publication is *Down the Garden Path: A Guide for Researching the History of a Garden or Landscape*.

A Salute to Our Presidents

They are among our hardest-working volunteers. While their faces become familiar to us, as we read or listen to their messages, and as we remain ever confident that they will lead whenever action is required, we may take for granted the effort they devote to the job. It’s time to acknowledge those who have served and are serving as president, give credit where credit is certainly due, and thank them for the tremendous contribution they have made to the Friends of the Central Experimental Farm.

We salute those special volunteers who have guided us through 25 years:

1988-1991	Robert Cook
1991-1993	Wally Parsons
1993-1994	Don Graham
1994-1996	Cliff Scott
1996-1997	Don Graham
1997-2004	Eric Moore
2004-2006	Valerie Cousins
2006-2008	Doug Shouldice
2008-2010	Polly McColl
2010- ...	Charles Craddock



Eric Moore (right), President of Friends of the Farm, and Lyle Vanclief, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, at the official release of the National Historic Site Management Plan, November 2003

What it Means to Me to be a Friend of the Farm

by Valerie Cousins

With the benefit of hindsight, I guess you could say I was intensely involved with the Friends from 2000 to 2009. I served on the Board for several years and was, for a short time, president. But I never intended for any of that to happen. On a lovely day in 2000, I was in the Arboretum taking photos of the spring blossoms, a tradition I had followed for several years, as do many people in Ottawa. At the time, I was a freelance writer and communications consultant and, between contracts, was enjoying time off in the middle of the day. Strolling back to my car, I noticed the Friends of the Farm sign for the first time, just outside Building 72. I was looking at it when approached by Diana Dakers-Ryan, who happened to be coming out of the door with an armload of books, magazines, clay pots and a couple of dirty garden tools. Though we'd never met before, we talked freely at her car for more than 20 minutes. Because of her no-nonsense charm, her sense of humour and disarming, blue-eyed gaze, I felt an immediate affection for her and knew that I would end up doing almost anything she asked. And that was the beginning of how I came to think of the Friends of the Farm as a second family

and the Farm itself as a sustainer of my soul.

I was developing my own perennial garden, so didn't want to work in the gardens, but offered to do something in the office, perhaps some photocopying, stuffing of envelopes or answering the phone for an hour or two a week. But, that was never to be. On my first visit, I came to understand very quickly that Diana was always there, the most dedicated of volunteers and one, I was convinced, whose model no one could possibly follow. She introduced me all around and I was set up to work in the office, inputting membership data from a long list which, by the way, I found quite difficult. My mind wandered and I made embarrassing mistakes.

Soon after, I was ushered into Debra Thornington's office, our then Manager of Volunteers. It was her practice to interview each new volunteer in an effort to comb through their experience, knowledge and passions to find ways in which the Friends could exploit new talent. As I was working in the field of communications, I was immediately flagged as Board potential especially in the area of publicity and communications. I was never asked to help out in the office again, probably for the best.



Diana Dakers-Ryan and Valerie Cousins, September 2004

Richard Conway

Diana Dakers-Ryan – She Did What She Loved

Diana Dakers-Ryan became a Friends of the Farm volunteer in 1996 after retiring as an operating nurse at the Queensway Carleton Hospital. She began on a gardening team, joined the craft group and was appointed to the Board of Directors. "They wanted me to be the secretary for the board, but what I do best is manage events," she said, and proceeded to manage all events for the next 14 years.

As well as planning and orchestrating each event, Diana took care of promotion and media contact. She loved to talk about the Farm, leading tours of various community groups around the site. She served as vice president of the Friends and was always keen to work in the gardens, most recently leading a rose team.

It was "just something I love to do," she said. "I just do my little part in the grand scheme of things." The scheme of things for the Friends and the Farm was made an awful lot grander by Diana's huge "little part."



Richard Conway

In thinking about the Friends' 25th anniversary and what my nine years has meant to me, I realize that my experience was so much more than what one normally thinks of as a volunteer activity. What I wished for then, and wish still today, is that more people could know what it has been like to be involved in this particular organization. Most important, those nine years gave me immeasurable gratification because I knew I was doing something important for our community, for my family and for me. Not all organizations have the reaching power that the Friends of the Central Experimental Farm have. Preserving the Farm will benefit generations to come and I feel good about having played a small part in that. Having grown up in Ottawa, I believed the Farm, and especially the gardens, the animals and the Arboretum were my own personal playground. It was a family ritual to enjoy this spot, year round. But as an adult, it became all too apparent that our beautiful community spaces must be protected from relentless, poorly planned, often poorly executed urban development.

The Friends has as one of its primary goals to help protect and preserve this historic site and that was something I could actively support. In this light, I think we are all indebted to Eric Moore, who as a former president of the Friends, helped to conceive of, test, set up and chair an essential advisory group, the Central Experimental Farm Advisory Committee (or CEFAC). This committee, representing a variety of interested organizations connected to the Farm, helps Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada explore and evaluate any new proposals for the Farm. It took months and months of hard work,

but it has proven an invaluable resource and a worthwhile endeavour.

I spent a good deal of time working together with departmental officials Pierre Huppé, Jean-Pascal Gratton, Dan Schmidt, Michel Falardeau and Pierre Corriveau and felt that this contact with our government was very important. It is only through organizations like the Friends that such a partnership can happen and I believe that government and volunteer groups learn a lot from each other. I wish more people could find a way to partner with government, because our leaders, both in the civil service and in politics, need to know that citizens have knowledge, expertise and the commitment to make a vital contribution to far-reaching community decisions.

During my time with the Friends, as these overarching sorts of initiatives were being carried out, countless fundraising activities were organized and managed by a host of volunteers under Diana's capable direction. Sometimes there were 13 a year – each one important, not only for the significant funds raised, but also because every time a visitor attended an event at the Farm, awareness was raised. And with increased awareness, the Farm became just a little more secure. This is still so important. The same holds true for all of our gardeners who work so well to help Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada keep the gardens and the Arboretum looking beautiful. Every visitor who comes to admire the gardens is one more person who will develop a relationship with this lovely landscape and will then be willing to protect it for future generations.

Finally, what has been most lasting for me about my active involvement with the Friends of the Farm is just that – friends. I can't think of better people whom I have come to know through this fine organization and many have become personal friends. Diana Dakers-Ryan was the first and I hold a special place in my heart for her. But there are many, many more. There is nothing that cements a friendship more than working together for the common good and that is

A Cheque for 16,000 Hours, 1993



In April 1993, President Don Graham (centre) presents Charlie Mayer, Minister of Agriculture (left), with a "cheque" for \$258,163.72, which represented over 16,000 hours of free-of-charge labour by about 250 volunteers. J.-C. St. Pierre of Agriculture Canada is on the right in the photo. Following the official speeches, Mr. Mayer and a crowd of Friends and Agriculture Canada officials braved rain and wind to plant a tree commemorating the occasion.

exactly what we do when we sign up to become an active volunteer Friend of the Central Experimental Farm. Though I have moved on to different projects for a variety of health and other reasons, I am a Life Member of the Friends and I have contributed to the "Safeguard Our Future" Campaign. So in this way I still feel engaged, I still feel committed, despite not being as actively involved as I once was.

Looking back on my nine years with the Friends of the Farm I can see that it greatly enriched my life. It was a fortunate cycle. The picturesque landscape nourished my soul with every minute that I spent at the Farm, and my time there reinvigorated my desire to work hard for its protection and

enhancement. Partnering with government helped me learn that positive change is sometimes possible and it also brought me in contact with some excellent Agriculture Canada officials. But most important, the friends I have made and the people I have been privileged to know is the gift to me that keeps on giving.

Happy 25th Birthday Dear Friends.
May there be many, many more birthday celebrations!

Valerie Cousins, former President of the Friends, is a communications consultant and managing editor at Sanderling Press (www.sanderlingpress.com), which recently published *Vimy: Canada's Memorial to a Generation* by Jacqueline Hucker and Julian Smith.



The Friends of the Central Experimental Farm is a volunteer organization committed to the maintenance and protection of the Ornamental Gardens and the Arboretum of the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Membership in the Friends of the Farm costs \$25 per year for an individual and \$45 per year for a family, \$20 Seniors/Students. Membership fees support the many projects of the Friends of the Farm.

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Office of the Mayor
City of Ottawa

On behalf of Members of Ottawa City Council, it is my distinct pleasure to extend congratulations to the Friends of the Central Experimental Farm in recognition of their 25th Anniversary serving the community.

Since 1988, the Friends have dedicated numerous hours of volunteer service and expertise to maintain, enhance, protect and to promote the rich variety of floras at the Central Experimental Farm in the heart of Canada's capital.

The Friends also merit praise for projects focussing on the restoration of the Heritage Rose Garden, along with the development of the Isabella Preston Heritage Lilac Collection, Explorer Rose Garden and the Hosta Garden.

In addition, the Friends have been instrumental in the rejuvenation of the Arboretum and improvements to the Merivale Road Shelterbelt as well as the Ornamental Gardens.

The Friends can take particular pride in their role as a founding partner of the Fletcher Wildlife Garden.

The Friends also assist to interpret and preserve the Central Experimental Farm as a national historic site and as a cultural heritage landmark in our city.

As Head of Council, I convey my best wishes to the Friends of the Central Experimental Farm for their continued success.

May 2013

Jim Watson, Mayor/Maire

Some Memorable Dates in Our 25-year History

The following dates mark the start or finish of some of the Friends of Farm's major projects over the last 25 years:

- Apr. 1988 FCEF incorporated as a non-profit, charitable Canadian company
- May 1988 First Board meeting
- May 1989 Beginning of Green Thumb and Arboretum teams; start of a special project to map the trees
- May 1989 First newsletter
- Sept. 1990 Sod turning ceremony for a Wildlife Garden, later to be named the Fletcher Wildlife Garden, an initiative of Ottawa Field Naturalists with FCEF support
- May 1991 First ceremonial planting of a donor tree in the Arboretum
- Apr. 1992 Submission to Agriculture Canada on renaming Farm buildings and roads
- Oct. 1995 Retirement of Peter Elliott, the Friends' General Manager
- Apr. 1997 Book launch for *Ottawa's Farm: A History of the CEF*
- Jun. 1997 Official opening of the Hosta Garden
- Feb. 1998 Designation of the Farm as a National Historic Site and Cultural Heritage Landscape
- May 1999 Founding of the CEF Advisory Committee
- Aug. 1999 FCEF Millennium Program, including garden restoration projects, submitted to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- Aug. 2001 Official opening of the restored Heritage Rose Garden
- Oct. 2002 Restoration of the peony beds completed
- Fall 2004 Completion of the new Iris and Daylily Garden
- Jun. 2005 Official opening of new Explorer Rose Garden
- Sept. 2005 Official opening by the Governor-General of the Merivale-Baseline Gateway Shelterbelt and Pathway
- Oct. 2007 Launch of the book *For the Love of Trees: A Guide to the Trees of Ottawa's Central Experimental Farm Arboretum*
- May 2009 Official opening of the Preston Heritage Lilac Collection during the International Lilac Society's convention co-hosted by FCEF and AAFC

A City Gem

A 1998 survey found that 74% of Ottawa-Carleton residents wanted to keep housing subdivisions off Central Experimental Farm land, and even more (78%) did not want major office or commercial buildings there.

Then Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson was not surprised by the results, saying "I think the Central Experimental Farm is a real gem in the city and I don't think the public wants to take open and green space and have it developed."

Results of the survey for the Ottawa Citizen by the COMPAS research firm were reported in the *Citizen* on August 3, 1998.



R. Hinchcliff

NEW MEMBER REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 CITY: _____ POSTAL CODE: _____
 PROVINCE: _____
 TELEPHONE #: _____
 FAX #: _____
 E-MAIL: _____

INTEREST IN VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

YES ☐

NO ☐

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

FAMILY \$45/year
 ADULT \$25/year
 SENIOR/STUDENT \$20/year
 BASIC CORPORATE \$250/year
 NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION \$25/year
 INDIVIDUAL LIFE \$200
 SENIOR COUPLE LIFE \$250
 DONATION \$ _____

TOTAL

\$ _____

Please make cheque or money order payable to: "Friends of the Farm." A receipt for income tax purposes will be issued for all donations of \$10 or more.

We are located at Building 72 in the Arboretum. You can visit us or mail this part of the form with your payment to:

FRIENDS OF THE CENTRAL EXPERIMENTAL FARM
Building 72, Central Experimental Farm
Ottawa, ON K1A 0C6

Telephone: (613) 230-3276

Fax: (613) 230-1238

Email: info@friendsofthefarm.ca

Website: www.friendsofthefarm.ca

Allison Randall –Twenty-Five Years and Counting

Allison Randall is the quintessential volunteer. In 25 years with the Friends, she has compiled an impressive record. Allison has gardened, baked, served tea, made and sold crafts, led tours, tended cash, and even stuffed envelopes in support of the Friends of the Farm. And that's only part of her contribution.

Allison is one of the Friends' original volunteers. In 1988, having recently moved from Bermuda to Ottawa, she "terribly missed" her volunteer work at Bermuda's Botanical Gardens. A neighbour who worked at Agriculture Canada suggested she contact Peter Elliott, who was organizing a new group called the Friends of the Farm.

Allison has fond memories of those exciting first years. Peter tapped into her volunteer experience in Bermuda and asked her to "do a review of the Farm to make it more people friendly." The result? More signage placed strategically around the Farm to enhance the public's enjoyment and appreciation of the historical site. Allison also fondly recalls the group of ladies who met regularly in the basement of Building 72 to make dried flower pictures, which were then sold in the Agriculture Museum shop.

Today, Allison is still an active volunteer – helping out wherever she can. The passage of time may have reduced her energy level, but it certainly hasn't dampened her enthusiasm for the Friends of the Farm.

Mary Ann Smythe



FCEF Archives

Allison Randall (second from right) and other Friends of the Farm "Green Thumb Team" volunteers Betty Sparham, (right), John Dekker and Ruth Veldhuisen, with Trevor Cole, curator of the Arboretum and Ornamental Gardens, September 1989

Opening of the Merivale Shelterbelt, 2005



David Carnegie, AAFC

Vice-President Doug Shouldice (right) with Adrienne Clarkson, Governor-General of Canada, her husband John Ralston Saul and Marlene Catterall, M.P. for Ottawa West-Nepean, at the official opening of the Merivale Shelterbelt, September, 2005.

Doug represented President Valerie Cousins, who was unable to attend.

Back to the Future on the Farm

(continued from Page 12)

"...the Farm was originally designed in a period when public involvement was expected, and encouraged. There was meant to be an interaction between the public, moving onto the site from east to west, and the research activity, building on the site from west to east. The public community and the research community were meant to meet and interact in the core. The problem in recent years has been a separation of these communities and a fragmentation of the site. But the basic elements of the cultural landscape are still in place, and there is now the potential to match the extraordinary qualities of the site with an equally powerful set of programmed uses."

The strength of any institution is its people, and AAFC and the Friends encourage you to come back to the Farm and sow the future.

Eric Jones, Vice President, Friends of the Farm, is retired from the Canadian Wood Council and has worked recently on tree-mapping projects in the City of Ottawa.

Back to the Future on the Farm

by Eric Jones

Over the past two centuries, people abandoned farms in favour of cities. Today, however, there is a trend among city dwellers to return to growing plants and food in urban settings. This trend toward "Urban Farms" is pushed and pulled by awareness of our vulnerability to food and environment pressures, and concern about being cut off from the natural world.

Urban farms? We have one – a real one right in the centre of the city, offering us a way to:

- Escape the urban heat sink
- Help children discover where food comes from
- Boost health with a stroll in open country
- Discover how plants, trees and animals work together
- Reduce air and water pollution
- Stay active with less cost to the environment
- Relax and restore well-being.

The Central Experimental Farm is the only farm in an urban centre in Canada. It is also both a natural and a cultural experience, with its collections and history of research and cultivation. It is a symbol, in the heart of the Nation's Capital, of the central role of agriculture in shaping the country.

Coming soon

What does the future hold for this green oasis?

Big challenges are afoot in Ottawa: the epidemic of tree loss from the Emerald Ash Borer, City regulations on trees and green-space, invasion of alien plants, urban infill and intensification, and soon tall buildings will be looming on the Farm's border.

Tall buildings are planned nearby on Carling, Preston, Fisher and Merivale, and this is not just a coincidence. People want access to nature in cities, as evidenced by the surge of interest in local food markets, shared gardens, organic products and green choices.

You may have also heard of recent cuts to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and other organizations – both public and private – throughout the area.

But the news is not all gloom and doom. The Agriculture Museum has been



R. Hinchcliff

transformed into the Canada Agriculture and Food Museum and a Learning Centre launched, adding new value to the Farm. The Friends celebrate its 25th anniversary this year, and is working with AAFC to plan 2017 events for Canada's 150th anniversary. AAFC continues to pursue its priority cereal and oilseed research at the Farm, and manages the Arboretum and Ornamental Gardens for the public.

The big question about the future, however, is how the public will be engaged so that the Farm's full worth can be realized. By getting actively involved, people will be able to enjoy new recreational opportunities, complement their children's education, and support citizen-based projects to enliven and enhance public spaces.

Use it or lose it

With people finding it harder to spend time and money on natural landscapes and diversions, we are so fortunate to have the Farm. The urban farming movement invites people to connect with both nature and history. There are lots of ways to be engaged through the Friends of the Farm:

Teams. The spring 2013 newsletter had an article on the Friends' 12 garden teams, which actively assist AAFC staff with the Ornamental Gardens, Arboretum and Merivale Shelterbelt. These teams are the focus of the organization and are always in need of volunteers.

In addition to the garden teams, the Friends have:

Events. You've seen the signs, now you can become actively involved by helping with book, plant, and arts and crafts sales. Support artists, craftspeople, gardening groups or readers of books.

Office projects. There is a growing need to get the word out through messages, pamphlets, Internet, newsletter, membership, and publicity. Help us take advantage of new technology to exchange ideas and keep in touch.

2017 projects (in planning stage). The plan includes new workshops, structures, plant areas, tours, books, and events on the Farm. Help us celebrate the heritage and the beauty of the Farm by enhancing public spaces with new attractions and information. Join a 2017 working group.

Become a member or donor. The support is vital whether you can be active with the Friends or not. The more members we have, the stronger we are in promoting the Farm and the projects.

Our vision of the future is to turn a pause at a green oasis into a regular stop on the best-valued greenspace circuit in Canada. This will only happen if Ottawans make it so.

The Central Experimental Farm National Historical Site Management Plan says

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