



Friends of the Central Experimental Farm

Winter 2021 Newsletter

Volume 33 No. 1

What You Look For At The Farm

By Eric Jones

The Central Experimental Farm Advisory Council (CEFAC) undertook a survey of visitors to the Farm from February to May last year. The aim of the survey was to form a picture of how people use the site and to better understand what people are looking for in their visits. Over 1000 people participated, most of them from Ottawa and only a few were Farm employees or volunteers.

The survey was started before the COVID-19 lockdown and ended in the midst of it. (See Page 3 for a sample of responses during COVID-19.) Since parking was prohibited at the Central Experimental Farm during the lockdown, less than half of the visitors traveled there by car during that time, as opposed to some two thirds who arrived by automobile before the lockdown. The top four destinations for visitors, before and after the lockdown, were the Arboretum, the Canada Agriculture and Food Museum, the Ornamental Gardens and the Fletcher Wildlife Garden.

Primary Purpose of the Farm

A big take-away from the study was that a large majority of the visitors surveyed do understand the underlying purpose of the CEF. This was true even though only a small minority of survey respondents had any working connection with the Farm.

Research was identified by over 90% as important to the future of the CEF. This reinforces the message that the CEF is a working institution rather than just a place to visit, and that it must generate results to continue to exist.

Education

Education was also identified by over 90% as important to the future of the Farm. Education has always been part of the CEF's purpose. The main focus of education is on information derived from research at the Farm and its branches, and for visitors this happens through events like the Open House and Bug Day on the Farm. It's clearly important to regularly and comprehensively



Photograph by Raymond Roy (see Page 8).

communicate to Canadians about what the CEF has done for them.

Education at the Farm also includes other areas such as farming in Canada (Museum), books and tours of the Ornamental Gardens and Arboretum (Friends of the Farm), native plants (Fletcher Wildlife Garden) as well as other topics. There is an opportunity for these education efforts to include links to other CEF information sources and contain key messaging about the CEF. Outreach would thereby be more coordinated and understanding of the Farm's character and significance enhanced.

Recreation

Recreation was ranked slightly lower in importance to the future of the CEF, but still fairly high. This may seem contradictory since the site is a place of work. But many activities that may be considered recreational take place in the public areas of the Farm. These events are often originated by the visitors themselves (e.g. group gatherings

and wedding photographs) and will likely increase in the future.

Recreation's ranking decreased slightly after the lockdown, partly because most events and activities were cancelled. During peak periods in normal times, recreational gatherings can put stress on facilities or conditions at the Farm. But they are also greatly appreciated and remembered by the public.

Wellness

Wellness was ranked by 75% of visitors as important to the Farm's future before the Covid-19 lockdown, but that rose to 86% after the lockdown. The need for urban green space is growing as the city grows, and the effects on health are starting to be better understood. After the lockdown, exercise and the views became even more important as reasons to visit the Farm.

But green space isn't the only aspect of wellness attached to the CEF. Agricultural

Continued on Page 3

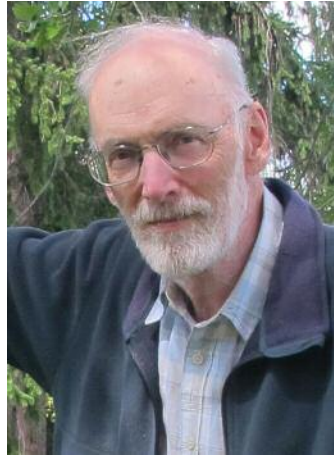
Update on Hospital Planning and Design

It's been a while since we've reported anything about plans for the new Ottawa Hospital that will be built on the northeast corner of the Experimental Farm.

The project is in Stage 2, which determines what will go on at the hospital, how much space and resources it needs, and the high-level architecture and design. A detailed breakdown of each clinical and research program, to include space, location, and staffing requirements, will be delivered in early 2021. Stage 2 will also provide a business plan and operational budgets for the project.

Other studies are being carried out to satisfy city zoning requirements including a transportation impact assessment and mobility plan, parking strategy addressing potential underground and off-site parking impacts, and a transportation demand management strategy. These studies are important but have been delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The detailed design of the site is still a couple of years away. A new project



advisory team, Graham Bird Associates, has been appointed to manage the project. This same team managed the Lansdowne Park redevelopment.

Preliminary estimates are for a Phase 1 hospital covering a little more than 2 million square feet in area and costing over

2 billion dollars, to be completed by 2028. The long-range plan is to double that area (and cost) over the following two decades. What footprint it will cover depends on the design of the hospital, including building height.

That design is still a couple years away. During 2021/2022, consortia will be selected to design, build, debt-finance, and maintain the new facility. Construction is scheduled to start in 2024.

The Friends of the Farm are represented on a Campus Engagement Group that was set up by the hospital to review plans and provide input from stakeholder groups. It remains to be seen how the hospital will use this group as it moves forward with its plans.

The Ottawa Hospital also provides info on a new website: www.newcivicdevelopment.ca

Eric Jones

President, Friends of the Central Experimental Farm

Mise à jour : planification et design du nouvel hôpital

Un certain temps s'est écoulé depuis notre dernier compte rendu relativement aux plans conçus pour le nouvel hôpital d'Ottawa, qui sera érigé dans le coin nord-est de la Ferme expérimentale centrale.

Le projet en est à sa deuxième étape actuellement, laquelle permettra de déterminer les activités du centre hospitalier, la superficie des espaces et les ressources nécessaires, ainsi que la conception d'une architecture et d'un design de haut niveau. Un rapport détaillé de chacun des projets cliniques et de recherche, incluant les exigences relatives à la superficie, l'emplacement et la dotation en personnel, sera présenté au début de 2021. C'est au cours de cette même étape 2 que seront dévoilés le plan d'affaires et les budgets d'exploitation du projet.

D'autres études ont été entreprises afin de satisfaire aux exigences relatives au zonage de la Ville, dont les suivantes : un plan regroupant des lignes directrices relatives aux évaluations des répercussions sur les transports et la mobilité; une stratégie visant à prévoir les éventuelles répercussions sur le stationnement, qu'il soit sous terrain ou localisé en d'autres endroits; enfin, une autre stratégie, celle-ci liée à la demande en transport. Ces études, de nature importante, ont été retardées en raison de la pandémie causée par le coronavirus.

Il faudra patienter deux années encore avant de connaître le plan détaillé de



A view of the area where the hospital will stand.

l'emplacement. Une nouvelle équipe consultative a été nommée pour exercer la gestion du projet. Il s'agit de la firme Graham Bird Associates, qui a mené à bonne fin le réaménagement du parc Lansdowne.

Selon les premières évaluations de l'étape 1, l'hôpital s'étendra sur une superficie d'un peu plus de deux millions de pieds carrés au coût de deux milliards de dollars, dont la fin de la construction est prévue d'ici 2028. Pour le long terme, ce plan pourrait subir des changements et voir la superficie doubler (et les coûts également) au cours des deux prochaines décennies. Le type d'empreinte que cette initiative laissera repose sur le design ou l'architecture de l'hôpital, dont la hauteur de l'édifice.

Ce design ne sera connu que dans deux ans. Au cours des prochaines années, soit 2021-2022, on fera appel à un consortium

qui veillera à la conception, la construction, le financement par emprunt et la gestion du nouvel édifice. Il est prévu que les travaux débutent en 2024.

Des représentants des Amis de la Ferme siègent au sein du Groupe de mobilisation publique créé par l'hôpital en vue d'examiner les plans et de fournir des commentaires au nom de certains intervenants. Il reste à voir si l'équipe de planification de l'hôpital tiendra compte des vues de ce groupe alors qu'elle va de l'avant dans la réalisation de ses plans.

L'Hôpital d'Ottawa fournit de plus de l'information sur un nouveau site: <https://nouveau-projet-civic.ca>

Eric Jones

Président, Les Amis de la Ferme expérimentale centrale

What You Look For At The Farm ... *(continued from Page 1)*

science is fundamentally linked to health in terms of nutrition, farming practices, and the environment. That message (not covered by our survey) may not be well understood.

Heritage

Another significant survey result is an understanding of the extent to which people value the Farm. An open-ended question drew forth many expressions of appreciation and fond recollections of Farm experiences over the years. There is obviously a deep emotional connection between the public and the site. (See Page 12 for some responses.)

Looking Ahead

The survey suggests that there is a strong

positive relationship between visitors and the Farm. It also shows that there are some areas that could be strengthened in the future.

Travel in the urban setting is always difficult and will be getting more challenging due to the trend toward intensification at the perimeter of the CEF, and the addition of the new hospital campus on site. Dealing with rising traffic and access will require innovative solutions to ensure the nature, quality, and purpose of the Farm is preserved.

The need for greater education and engagement of the public is of growing importance because there are so many aspects of the Farm's work that are relevant today. Also, competing interests for public space in the urban core will continue to press

for access to and use of the site. There is an opportunity to engage groups that are interested in assisting with outreach and messaging so that education will reach a wider audience. This will be important to the preservation and enhancement of the CEF.

The 2020 visitor's survey showed the positive experience of most CEF visits in 2020. We hope that future surveys will show even better results.

Eric Jones, President of the Friends of the Farm, chairs the Central Experimental Farm Advisory Council.

For a report on the survey / Pour voir le rapport du sondage, veuillez cliquer ici
<https://friendsofthefarm.ca/about-the-farm/2020-survey-of-visitors-to-the-farm/>.

A Lifesaver During the Pandemic

The following are some of the responses given during COVID-19 to the survey's open-ended questions:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With COVID-19 in our midst my (our) daily walks in the Farm have been a lifesaver. I think that this pandemic is making many realize how fortunate we are to have this jewel in our midst. • We are very fortunate to have the Farm in our city. We must do all we can to preserve the space. During this time of COVID-19 I have never seen the farm so busy with people out walking. It creates a place of calm and that is extremely important now and moving forward. • This is the best agricultural display and open farm exhibit in all of Canada. Being able to appreciate where food comes from is so valuable | <p>especially through COVID-19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Farm is particularly important to me now during the COVID-19 pandemic as I do almost all my walking there. It has the space to get away from people and I really feel the need for nature. I feel like my mental health is failing because of the stress of the pandemic and my outings to the Farm really help. Thank you. • It's an amazing gem in this city, especially during this time of COVID-19 – lots of space to walk and avoid others. • This Farm needs to remain. COVID-19 has reminded us how fragile our world is and how the rich rape this earth to become richer. | <p>Research needs to continue. It is of the utmost important if we are to continue to thrive in this world. We also need this rare space in the middle of the city to be able to get away...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The research accomplished at the farm is very important to feeding our nation and securing trade with other countries. Just as COVID-19 has appeared, crops are also affected by new diseases. We need on-going research. The fact that the city has grown around the farm has provided the city with a natural Central Park. It is beautiful and provides a recreational space. It has been proven to also be important to filtering polluted air for the city. |
|---|---|---|

Long-serving Volunteers

At the Friends' 2020 Annual General Meeting in September, Director of Volunteers Donna Pape thanked the following volunteers for their years of service:

- 5 Years:** Pat Beechy, Heather Black, Lorraine Boulay, Joan Craig, Annie Creighton, Michel Girard, Matthew Lacompte, Jim MacKenzie, Kathy McDougall, Jim O'Dell, Pascale Springuel, Jackie Terris, Dorothy Tol;
- 10 Years:** Bob Barron, Linda McLaren, David Roeske, Diane Roeske, Suzanne Sauve
- 15 Years:** Shirley Ewen, Kathy Hatherill, Carole McColgan, Sue Morton, Donna Pape;
- 20 Years:** Maura Giuliani, Marilyn Hahn;
- 25 Years:** Polly Ann Sobier.

75 Years of Tulips in the National Capital Region

From those given in 1945 by Holland in gratitude for Canadians helping them gain freedom from the Nazis, to the beautiful 'Liberation75' variety introduced in 2020, tulips have been a prominent feature in the spring flower beds of the National Capital Commission.

In her presentation at the Friends' virtual AGM on September 16, Tina Liu recounted the story of Dutch royal family members sheltering in Ottawa during WWII, and traced the history of subsequent tulip displays. She also described other notable plantings in the city, showing fascinating photos, e.g., a city bed planted with castor beans (1882), and banana trees in Major's Hill Park (1910).

As design manager of the Capital Floral Program, Tina orchestrates the year-round floral display in Ottawa, which includes the Canadian Tulip Festival in the spring, and annual and perennial displays from summer to autumn. For the tulip beds at the Festival, it's a 12- to 18-month cycle, beginning with her doodles on paper, continuing through the stages of computer design, ordering the bulbs, surveying and "painting" the design on beds, and finally planting (by hand).

A million tulips

In the fall of 2019, the NCC planted 600,000 bulbs, and with 50 bulbs per square metre, they covered a space equivalent to 9 hockey rinks. Combined with "perennialized" varieties, there were a million tulips around the region in 2020.

Tina likes to link displays with events going on in the City, such as in 2012 when the National Gallery featured an exhibition of Van Gogh paintings. That year, her design of the beds and selection of tulip varieties for Major's Hill Park was inspired by that great artist.

She views the tulip beds as part of the whole landscape. For example, if Tina wants to showcase a stone wall in the back ground, she chooses tulips of certain heights, so that the viewer's eye is drawn to the wall. And using tulips of different heights, she said, always adds an extra dimension to the display. To prolong the



Tulip Festival, pre-pandemic.



Tulip Festival, pre-pandemic.

blooming time in a design, she uses a mix of early, mid and late-season tulips of the same colour. Over the last 10 years, as a result of climate change, the blooming time for tulips has become two weeks earlier. To avoid this having a major impact on the display, she plants 20% early season varieties, 40% mid-season, and 40% late.

Squirrels are another challenge. While NCC staff are the official gardeners of the national capital, she said, squirrels transplanting bulbs are the unofficial gardeners. She has found chicken manure to be an effective squirrel deterrent, and is also experimenting with the idea of "sacrificial planting" to give wildlife their fill of flower buds.

Festival challenges

At Tulip Festival time in the past, 50-60,000 people visited on a good day, and

50-60 tour buses arrived on a good weekend. Crowd control was a challenge, when everyone wanted photos and would often step into the beds to get among the tulips. In response, Tina introduced the "photo-op" paths into the beds. She also added inconspicuous hoop fences to deter people.

The big challenge in 2020, of course, was the pandemic, which forced a closure of Commissioners Park, except for walk-throughs by locals. Since people weren't able to come, "we brought it to them," said Tina, and the Virtual Tulip Festival went "surprisingly well, with about 50,000 hits. It gave another dimension to the event." Tina herself provided an online Tulip Legacy Garden Tour, at www.tulipfestival.ca/tulip-legacy-walking-tour/.

Deepak Shah: A Man for All Tasks

By Joan Butcher

Deepak Shah has been a very engaged volunteer with the Friends of the Farm since 2002, serving as part of the current office team and as a member of the former Donor Tree Program. When needed, he can turn his hand to sorting books or tea cups and putting together materials for Art on the Farm or other special events. He also excels at computer inputting, filing, distribution lists, shredding documents, and coffee making.

He looks back very fondly on his time with the Donor Tree Program because he was able to spend plenty of time in the fresh air, finding the right trees, placing the donor plaques and ensuring the plaques remained in their rightful place. He associates true peace of mind with time spent outdoors.

Deepak also appreciated having the opportunity to be outdoors in the company of his fellow team members. His reminiscences of 18 years of volunteering with the Friends are centered around his

enjoyment of interacting with others. So much fun was had during the book sorting that proceeded the very first book sale that one of his co-workers laughingly expressed the wish to adopt Deepak.

Other organizations have benefitted from Deepak's dedication to community service. He served as a president of a credit union, volunteers with the Ottawa Jazz Festival and was a Friend of Gatineau Park.

Pre-COVID, Deepak was an avid world traveller. He has been to many European countries and has visited the United States frequently. On a recent trip to India, he was fortunate to get back to Canada just as travel was becoming a very risky business indeed.

Deepak Shah credits his time at the Farm with bringing him an awareness of the enormous variety of trees and flowers that we are fortunate to be able to walk among and draw serenity from.



Polly McCoil

Thank You and Best Wishes

The Board of Directors thanks members, donors, and others who have continued to support the Farm and the Friends during a difficult pandemic year.

And a special thanks to all our volunteers who are willing, but this year were denied the opportunity, to give so much of their time and effort to help departmental staff keep the Ornamental Gardens and Arboretum looking beautiful, and to help plan and run our events.

Best wishes for 2021. We look forward to getting back to business and seeing you again during the year.

Benefits for Members of the Friends

The following nurseries are offering discounts to Friends of the Central Experimental Farm (FCEF) members:

Established in 1994, **Stoneridge Gardens and Nursery** is a family-owned and



operated nursery in Clayton, Ontario (near Middleville). Stoneridge Gardens is offering a 10% discount to all FCEF members upon

presentation of a valid FCEF membership card.

Beaux Arbres Native Plants specializes in plants native to the Ottawa Valley, and garden-worthy wildflowers from eastern

North America. **Beaux Arbres** welcomes all current members of the Friends of the



Farm to their location at Bristol, Québec, and is offering a 10% discount on Farm Sales only upon presentation of a

valid FCEF membership card.

Since 1987, **Whitehouse Perennials**, located in Almonte, Ontario, has been



a destination for Ottawa-area gardeners. Whitehouse Perennials is offering a 10% discount on

all regularly-priced plant materials at their nursery location upon presentation of a valid FCEF membership card.

Notes:

- Some restrictions may apply to the discounts.
- These nurseries will honour all FCEF membership cards expiring in 2020 and beyond, as FCEF has been unable to process membership renewals. For more details, contact membership@friendsofthefarm.ca.
- Due to Covid-19, please call first or visit their websites.

Going Nuts in the Dominion Arboretum

By Robert Glendinning

The Arboretum's squirrel population would back me up on this – we have a pretty good collection of hardy nut trees and shrubs there.

Chestnuts

The nut tree we get the most inquiries about is the *Aesculus* which is called Horse Chestnut (if native to Europe or Asia) and Buckeye (if native to North America). Beautiful ornamental trees, they are notable for their bottle brush flowers which bloom in the late spring. There is an impressive double-flowered cultivar called *Aesculus hippocastanum* 'Baumannii.' A few of these can be found near the Heritage House on Birch Drive (Building 60) on the Farm campus.

Generally, the flower colour of *Aesculus* is white to cream, but there are also a few cultivars with striking red and pink flowers. In the early fall the nuts ripen and look like chestnuts, but be aware that these nuts are toxic to humans. Most of the species are trees, but in the maple collection of the Arboretum you will find *Aesculus parviflora* which is a large open shrub. It loves shade, and flowers in the summer when little else is in bloom.

The actual native chestnut, *Castanea dentata*, was decimated by a blight that arrived from Asia in the early 1900s and we have only one young specimen remaining in the Arboretum. Because it is isolated, we have hopes that it will not get the blight.

One interesting plant that is currently in the nursery is *Xanthoceras sorbifolium*, the Chinese Flowering Chestnut or Yellowhorn. It is not a common plant although it is hardy. It is a shrub with white flowers and produces nuts that apparently taste like macadamias. It is hoped that it can be planted out in the next few years.



Eric Jones

Robert Glendinning leading a tour of nut trees in the Arboretum, September 2020.

Walnuts

The walnuts are also well-represented in the tree collection. The Black Walnut, *Juglans nigra*, is a beautiful tree and is an Ontario native. It has lovely wood and its nuts are edible, but difficult to crack. Work is being done to create a nut that you can get at more easily. The tree seems to get some bad press because of the difficulty many plants have growing underneath it. The Black Walnut releases a chemical called juglone that retards the growth of many, but not all plants.

In the wild, another native relation, *Juglans cinerea* or Butternut, is under attack from the butternut canker. Unfortunately, the Arboretum's trees are not immune. Any mature specimens we have on the Farm are genetically hybrids, which gives them resistance.

We have many small self-seeded ones located by the canal

The European/English Walnut, *Juglans regia*, struggles here in the Arboretum, as it is borderline hardy. I have been told that some produce nuts in a good year, but I have not seen any. Some of our specimens

seem to be finally forming a tree after year as a large shrub.

Walnuts have Asian representation as well. *Juglans ailantifolia* is the Japanese Walnut and we have a large one in the circle. But perhaps my favourite is *Juglans cathayensis* which sits below the south lookout to the right, to the right. (See photo next page.) While I have not ever tasted the nuts, I struggled for many years to grow this lone specimen from a seed. The squirrels would clean them out overnight, just as they were getting to the stage when they could be planted. So I started to pick unripe seeds every week until the squirrels cleaned off the tree. I then sowed the last few batches I collected, finally beating those pesky squirrels.

Hickories

Hickories, *Carya ovata*, are another native tree. The Shagbark Hickory is a beautiful tree with an attractive yellow fall colour. When mature, its bark lives up to its common name. Although nuts of this tree are supposed to be delicious, I have never seen any at a grocery store. We also have another native species, *Carya cordiformis*, called the Bitternut Hickory. It is another attractive specimen, but just like the Shagbark its common name is telling you something about the tree. You wouldn't die from eating a few, but it would be an unpleasant experience.

One tree that is a *Carya* but is never called a hickory, is the Pecan *Carya illinoensis*. You are right to think it is a southern tree, but some will happily grow in Ottawa. It is a lovely tree, and we have two specimens in the Arboretum. Both set fruit, but the nuts need a longer growing season



Aesculus parviflora

R. Hinchcliff

*Juglans cathayensis*

to ripen. I have been told that we have had ripened ones when there was an unseasonably warm December awhile back. There is a cross between *Carya ovata* and *C. illinoensis* that is called a 'Hican,' which is not in the Arboretum, but it would be worth trying to establish. Apparently, it has extra hardiness as well as tasty nuts. The one limiting factor for the genus is that they are slow growing in the beginning, developing a large taproot at first. If the tap root is damaged, the tree will fail and this makes transplantation difficult.

Hazelnuts

The Hazelnut is also at home in the

Arboretum. We have European, Asian, and native representatives. Turkish Hazel, *Corylus colurna*, is a tree and while the nuts are edible it tends to be planted as an ornamental. *Corylus avellana* is a European shrub and most commonly sold in its contorted ornamental form, *Corylus avellana* 'Contorta', known as Harry Lauder's Walking Stick. One of these was just planted in the circle. We also have mature stands of the

plain *Corylus* species which set tasty nuts every year. In England the species is often coppiced (regularly pruned at the base) and the straight sticks are used as garden stakes and in weaving fences and trellises. *Corylus americana* is a native shrub and a reliable producer. It also has a beautiful orangey fall colour. *Corylus cornuta* or Beaked Hazelnut is another native. A small shrub, it grows in nearby forests.

Pine nuts

Pine nuts are an important ingredient in pesto and as the name states, they come from Pine trees, *Pinus*. The traditional pine nut is from a pine tree that is not hardy in Ottawa, but *Pinus koraiensis*,

Shagbark Hickory (*Carya ovata*)

R. Hinchcliff

Korea Pin and *Pinus cembra*, Swiss Stone Pine, produce nuts that are used in the same way. We had a large specimen of *Pinus armandii*, Chinese White Pine, but it died a few years back. The nuts from this tree are also sold as pine nuts, but they cause a reaction in some people. I am one of them. If you are sensitive to these nuts, and consume them for a period of time, everything you drink or eat tastes awful. I believe it is specific to the species. If it happens to you don't panic; it goes away in a day or so.

Robert Glendinning is
Groundskeeper/Propagator at
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

Using the Arboretum's Air Quality as a Benchmark

Ecology Ottawa has released its report on a community-level project entitled "Breathe Easy" that measured Ottawa's air quality. With guidance from Carleton University, the air quality of Ottawa's Arboretum was compared to the air quality near daycares, schools, and senior centres, locations where the city's most vulnerable residents congregate. Over 150 volunteers walked, rolled, rode, or ran in all areas of the city while carrying an easy-to-use mobile air monitoring device attached to bikes, wheelchairs, backpacks, scooters, or baby strollers.

The Arboretum was monitored as a comparative location due to its significant tree density and relative distance from high-traffic roads.

The results show that on 55% of all monitoring days, pollution levels in Ottawa were unhealthy for sensitive groups, and 52% of measurements were above the World Health Organization's recommended "short term ingestion" limit for at least one contaminant.

On average, the Arboretum proved to have significantly lower pollutant concentrations than the sites tested across the city, for all contaminants. It is believed that the overall air quality is better in the Arboretum because of its significant tree canopy, relative to the rest of the city. The Arboretum is, however, still vulnerable to spikes in pollution (particularly from ozone), suggesting greater tree canopy can improve air quality but cannot protect against sudden increases in pollution observed across the city. Efforts to reduce source emissions are therefore still required.

The report is at
<https://2020-ecologyottawa.nationbuilder.com/breatheeasy>.



Arboretum photo by Raymond Roy (see Page 8).

Infra-red Infra-structure

Raymond Roy's stunning photographs have appeared several times in this newsletter. We caught up with him to find out about his current Central Experimental Farm project.



Greenhouses, built in 2009, on Winding Lane next to the K.W. Neatby Building.

What is your current focus at the Farm?

I'm exploring the big open spaces (big sky) and rolling fields, where the austere landscape is broken by unique science-based architecture, greenhouses, research laboratory buildings, historic dwellings, farm equipment, and other infrastructure. I would eventually like to interview and photograph the various people who work on the Farm to broaden out my understanding of the uses and actual research done in the buildings I've photographed, to elucidate what my photographs say about the form, function, and utility of these structures.

How did this project come about?

It is an extension of my experimental explorations in the Arboretum with a digital Infra-Red camera. The diverse landscape there was for me both a sanctuary and creative research centre, a space I used (and continue to use) on a regular basis to make art, practice taiji, and meditate. Its ambience resonates



Forage Crops Building on Maple Drive at Carling Avenue. The greenhouses have been removed.

strongly with my creative vision and reaffirms my belief that the preservation of our natural environment is fundamental to a healthy and sustained existence for this planet. I've now gone from that diversity of the Arboretum to the limited mono-culture of the rest of the Farm, where science and research that is essential to human existence on this planet is reflected in the landscape.

What have you found so far?

During my explorations I found that the infrastructures at the Farm, like everything in life, have changed, decayed,

and evolved over time. For example, many of the greenhouses I photographed have been demolished, upgraded, or redesigned. And some of the older equipment I found in the fields is no longer there. My photographs are in essence documents about transition and change.

Why Infra-red?

As I state in the introduction to my book *Magnetic Fields*, the camera records an image through mechanical reproduction and by its very nature can only imitate the visual perception of

external reality. My goal as an artist is to transform the mimetic image into a visually poetic form through a process of experimentation. For these projects, I work with a modified digital camera which exposes only the invisible near infra-red wavelength of the electromagnetic spectrum of energy. This evokes in the viewer a unique encounter with an otherwise unseen world, revealing in the process a surreal and disorienting environment where familiar expectations about our sense of reality are questioned.

Raymond Roy is an Ottawa multimedia artist whose book entitled *Magnetic Fields* contains many photographs taken in the Arboretum. It can be viewed at <https://www.ecoartdatabase.org/en/showcase/magnetic-fields-invisible-light/detail-ajax>. For more information on his various projects, google Raymond Roy - RAYGUN.

Virtual Farm Tours

At this time of the year and during a pandemic, virtual doses of Farm beauty and discovery are very welcome. Here are some online videos created by Farm lovers for your enjoyment.

Felicity Garrard shares her appreciation of “this marvellous green oasis in the middle of our busy sprawling city” with her Ottawa Garden Club members, in an online video entitled “In Praise of Ottawa’s Experimental Farm.” https://youtu.be/-csDQ_hEkPs

Ken Farr offers a guided tour of the Arboretum, providing answers to the question “What trees should I plant in the urban forest?” Ken, who is with the Canadian Forest Service of Natural Resources Canada, has provided actual tours of the Arboretum for the Friends of the Farm.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=paRluAdUiAw&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR3U7Wh9sUrwLbCNHe8vkeYCYqOtbJ5QAV354dH1TCp-rPbaDyuV7Wn1Ynw>

Jason Polak writes that he has been visiting the Experimental Farm for decades. He loves birds and shares a short documentary he made about some of the birds at the Arboretum.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eEWMmE9jKHk>

In the 2020 survey (see Page 1), a few people mentioned how much they would love to have a café at the Farm. In this video, a café/nursery is imagined in the Tropical House ...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9pHihVD61SY&feature=youtu.be>

Do you have a video, some photos or memories of the Farm you'd like to share? Let us know by emailing info@friendsofthefarm.ca.



Detail from a slide in Felicity Garrard's presentation.

In Memory – Vern Burrows



Eileen Reardon

Vern graduated from the University of Manitoba with a BSA and MSc, and earned a PhD in 1958 from the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, California. He studied plant breeding at the Masters level and genetics in his PhD.

His main research focus at the Farm was on oats. He became the Farm's oat breeder and introduced 27 varieties, the most notable being the hull-less and hairless "naked oat," which is more easily produced and processed, and more nutritious than regular oats. He worked with the Canadian Celiac Association and was able to provide them with pure, unadulterated oats for celiac patients.

He and his colleague Dr. Bill Collins worked to combine the chemistry and breeding of unique traits into oats, resulting in over 40 Canadian, U.S., and world patents. Another colleague at the Farm, Malcolm Morrison wrote: "To say that Vern was loved by all the people he worked with is not an exaggeration. Vern taught me that one of the best ways to learn in science is to make mistakes. He said that every experiment is not a success unless it leads to three more experiments."

Vern helped Chinese farmers cultivate oats (often in places where nothing else would grow) and encouraged its acceptance as an alternative to rice. For his efforts, he received the Chinese Friendship Award in 2001 as "Outstanding Foreign Expert," and is depicted in China in a large bronze statue holding a sheaf of oats.

Dr. Burrows became a member (CM) of the Order of Canada in December 2001, and in February 2019, he was promoted to become an officer of the Order (OC). He received many Canadian scientific awards, as well as the Queen's silver and gold jubilee medals.

We offer our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

Dr. Vernon (Vern) Burrows, aka Dr. Oat, died on November 8, 2020, at the age of 90. He was a Research Scientist at the Central Experimental Farm for 40 years, and Research Scientist Emeritus for another 19 years after retirement.

Consider joining the Friends of the Farm!

Find our membership form on the website and pay by PayPal or send in a cheque:

www.friendsofthefarm.ca/become-a-member/

Benefits include discounts on Master Gardener lectures hosted by the Friends, one free adult admission per visit to the Canada Agriculture and Food Museum, quarterly printed newsletters by post, and monthly Farm Notes e-newsletters.

We also accept donations to support our activities and events, which also support the garden teams that maintain the cherished Ornamental Gardens. A variety of donations can be made through our webpage: www.friendsofthefarm.ca/donations/.



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.

The Friends of the Central Experimental Farm publish the Newsletter (ISSN 1702 2762) four times a year (Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall). All members receive the newsletter and it is sent by regular mail or e-mail.

Editor: Richard Hinchcliff. Assistant Editor: Joan Butcher. Design & Printing: Nancy Poirier Printing.

Contributors: Robert Glendinning, Eric Jones, Raymond Roy. Translator: Lise Anne James.

Friends of the Farm

Telephone: 613-230-3276

Building 72, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, ON K1A 0C6

E-mail: info@friendsofthefarm.ca

www.friendsofthefarm.ca

Charitable Number 118913565RR0001

Creative Imagery

By Richard Hinchcliff

Photographs were manipulated long before Photoshop was an option. Negatives were altered, retouched or combined; prints were cut up and spliced together; exposures were contrived. Because of a general belief that the camera never lies, there was scope for trickery. People could be fooled for propaganda purposes, or for a rewrite of history, with people removed from images or the 'great leader' added into special events.

Larger than life – the 'Tall Tale' postcards

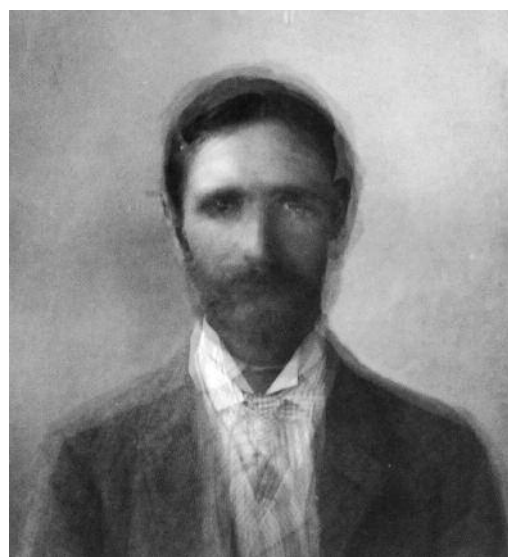
An early example of such trickery in North America was the "tall tale postcard" in the early 20th century. These featured images of giant-sized onions or watermelons at harvest, monster geese, or chickens



"Taking our geese to market."



"Harvesting a profitable crop of onions".



Composite portrait of the sons of William Saunders.

the size of horses. Farming communities used them to boast about the size of their produce.

One of the most famous creators in this genre was from Ottawa—Ottawa, Kansas, that is. His name was William H. Martin and a sample of his images are shown here. (*Thanks to J. H. Cole Robillard for sending these.*)

Five Saunders sons – a composite portrait

Another example of creative

image-making was the composite portrait, first seen in the 1880s. This combined the photos of several people at the same spot, each exposed briefly with the camera on the same film. It required experimentation with exposures and careful placement of the subjects.

The technique was used by some who believed it could reveal common features of types of people; that it would show a generic criminal, for example.

In the early days of the Central

Experimental Farm, the five sons of William Saunders—Will, Henry, Charles, Percy, Fred—were captured in such a composite portrait, seen here. It is likely that Charles or their sister Annie, who were both skilled amateur photographers, created the image when all the siblings were in Ottawa on holiday, staying with their parents at the Director's residence at the Farm.

The result, perhaps, portrays a generic Saunders son.

The Lafleur family – then and now at the Macoun Memorial Garden

A recent example of image manipulation, where people are moved from one landscape to another, is this image of Lafleur family members at the Macoun Memorial Garden. A snapshot was taken in the 1950s that included Michel Lafleur on the left with his mother and sister.

Michel, now retired from a career in photo-journalism, recently photographed the same spot at the Garden and combined the images. Thus, a young Michel with his mother and sister are brought into the modern Garden, complete with background traffic on Prince of Wales Drive.



Michel Lafleur with mother and sister at Macoun Memorial Garden.

Courtesy of Michel Lafleur



Artist Raymond Roy (see Page 8)

Pierre Huppé Retires



Pierre Huppé is retiring in January, 2021 as Chief, Grounds Maintenance, at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. On behalf of Friends of the Farm's volunteers, the Board of Directors thank Pierre for his years of contributions to the beautiful landscape of the Farm and his support of the Friends of the Farm. We wish him well in his retirement.

“We Love the Farm”

More responses to the survey's open-ended questions (see Page 1)

- We love the Farm. We love to see the workers working the machinery. The staff collecting their specimens. We love to watch the planting and harvesting. Where else can children see cows/sheep/chicken/horses so close to their home? We see the owls in the winter and hawks in the summer. The coyotes who live on the Farm. They have so few spaces left. We used to see the fox but haven't for some time. People need to see how farming should work. Not factory farms. It's such a serene space. Please, leave it be.
- There is never enough published on the benefit of the Farm to the overall health and wellness of the city. A recent Carleton (*University*) study has found that the Farm reduces the urban heat sink; it also captures millions of litres of water that do not end up

in the rain water/sewage system. The Farm also is a unique feature found nowhere else in the world in an urban setting. There are millions of hospitals, and only one research station in the heart of a capital city.

- There is room for scientific, educational, and recreational activities at the Farm. While some of us at AAFC do try to reach out to the public, and while our research days are very well attended, more needs to be done to coordinate with the museum and educate others using the Farm. Having AAFC here is the perfect opportunity to educate people not just about the history of agriculture in Canada, but about its present and future (which is quite different than most people realize). More also needs to be done to educate badly-behaved dog walkers...

- The Farm is a very important asset for residents of Ottawa and Canada alike. It was established when farming was a major occupation and when newcomers to Canada needed help to cope with the climate, growing season, suitable crops, farm animals, etc. The continuity of data for over a century is a valuable asset to today's scientists (and citizens) as we face the challenges of climate change.
- I mainly come for the beautiful surroundings of the Farm, just to walk around and enjoy the farm setting and fields. We occasionally attend events though, like the Research Open House, which is really well run. I'm a teacher and I always publicize the open house at school so other families with children can take it in.