



Friends of the Central Experimental Farm

Special Anniversary Newsletter • September 2008

Volume 20 No. 3



Celebrating
20
YEARS
1988-2008





I believe this is the eleventh time that I have had the opportunity to write this column, first as vice-president, then acting president, and more recently as president. As my term is about to end, I would like to reflect on some of our special memories.

It gives me great pride in having been able to represent The Friends organization, and the people who make up The Friends. I have spoken to groups numbering two to 700 people and everything in between. I've represented The Friends at community groups and with politicians and bureaucrats at the municipal, provincial and federal levels. With the opening of the Merivale Road Shelterbelt, I was our representative with the Her Excellency The Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson.

I travelled to PEI to speak to the AGM of the Friends of the Farm at the Charlottetown research station. We wish them continued success with their Farm and their Royal Forest.

President's Report

I've had the pleasure of working with staff members Marsha Gutierrez and Debra Thornington— both always professional; former presidents Eric Moore, and Valerie Cousins; and all my fellow board members, both past and present. Most importantly, it has been exciting meeting and working with so many of our volunteers and members and especially with the staff of the Farm. I thank all of you!

It was on June 2, 1886, that the Experimental Farm Station Act was signed into law. Twenty years ago financial pressures were causing many cutbacks in government. Our first general manager, Peter Elliott, and the late Bob Cook, our first president, stepped up and created The Friends of the Central Experimental Farm. Today our volunteers work hand-in-hand with the Farm staff to extend their work in the Ornamental Gardens and the Arboretum and, as volunteers, we manage and run the Shelterbelt. The former donor tree program, the shelterbelt opportunity to donate, and the tree book are all big projects; but all of our events, fund raisers, and special projects raise funds which we spend back on the Farm. The newsletter is a wonderful instrument to keep the members and public informed. If you

don't have your back editions, many of them are on our web site. I thank guest editor Richard Hinchcliff for putting this edition together. As you read through it, I am sure you, too, will marvel at where we have been, and where we stand today.

Some time ago we were asked by Agriculture Canada to investigate a possible program for the south-east sector of the Farm, in lands not presently required for research. After presentations to both this Ministry and Minister Baird, we have heard from Minister Baird that there are no federal funds currently available to help us with our project which would include a botanical garden. We continue to work with the Ottawa Botanical Garden Society. Your board is still working on possibilities to meet the ministry's needs.

If you are able to, come garden with us, or take part in our activities. Remember us in your financial planning. Join us for our AGM on Wednesday September 17, or simply come and enjoy the Central Experimental Farm.

I thank you for the HONOUR of being your representative and your president.

Mots du Président

C'est la onzième fois que je m'adresse à vous, d'abord en tant que vice-président, président interimaire et, plus récemment, comme président. Au terme de mon mandat, j'aimerais revenir sur certains point saillants des dernières années.

Je suis particulièrement fier d'avoir pu représenter l'organisation des Amis, et les membres qui la composent, auprès de groupes allant de 2 personnes, jusqu'à 700: des groupes communautaires, des politiciens et des fonctionnaires, à tous les niveaux de gouvernement, municipal, provincial et fédéral. J'ai aussi eu le plaisir de participer à l'inauguration du brise-vent du chemin Merivale aux côtés de son Excellence la très Honorable Adrienne Clarkson. Je me suis rendu à l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard pour faire une présentation à l'assemblée générale annuelle des Amis de la ferme de la station de recherche de Charlottetown; nous souhaitons beaucoup de succès à tous leurs projets, autant pour la ferme que pour la Forêt royale.

Dans l'accomplissement des mes fonctions, j'ai pu compter sur Marsha Gutierrez et Debra Thornington, dont j'ai grandement apprécié le professionnalisme, les anciens présidents Eric Moore et Valerie Cousins, ainsi que mes collègues

actuels et passés du bureau de direction. J'ai surtout eu le grand bonheur de connaître et travailler avec nos membres et bénévoles et le personnel de la ferme. Un gros merci à tous.

C'est le 2 juin 1886 que fut sanctionnée la loi créant la station de recherche de la Ferme expérimentale. Il y a 20 ans, de sérieuses restrictions occasionèrent de nombreuses compressions budgétaires au gouvernement. C'est alors que le premier directeur général, Peter Elliott et feu Bob Cook, premier président, eurent l'idée de créer le groupe des Amis de la ferme expérimentale centrale. Aujourd'hui, nos membres travaillent de pair avec les employés de la ferme dans les jardins ornementaux et l'arboretum, et ont assumé l'administration du brise-vent. Nos projets les plus ambitieux furent certainement le programme de dons d'arbres, le brise-vent et le livre *For the Love of Trees*; les sommes recueillies lors de ces levées de fonds et de nos nombreuses autres activités sont consacrées à des projets de la ferme. Nos communiqués contribuent à informer nos membres et le grand public de ces activités. Plusieurs des anciens numéros sont maintenant disponibles sur notre site web. Mes remerciements à notre éditeur

invité Richard Hinchcliff pour la préparation du présent numéro. N'est-il pas merveilleux de constater tout le chemin parcouru au cours de ces années!

Il y a quelque temps, Agriculture Canada nous a demandé d'essayer de mettre sur pied un programme visant à développer le secteur sud-est de la ferme, un secteur de terres non-utilisées pour la recherche. Des représentations ont été faites auprès du département de l'agriculture et du Ministre Baird (environnement); ce dernier nous a laissé entendre qu'aucun fond n'est disponible pour financer un tel projet, lequel inclurait un jardin botanique. À ce chapitre, nous continuons de joindre nos efforts à ceux de la Société du jardin botanique d'Ottawa afin de répondre aux attentes du Ministère.

Nous vous invitons à venir jardiner avec nous, ou à prendre part à nos nombreuses activités. Souvenez-vous dans votre planification fiscale. Joignez-vous à nous pour l'Assemblée générale annuelle qui se tiendra le mercredi 17 septembre, ou accordez-vous tout simplement le plaisir d'une promenade à la Ferme expérimentale centrale.

Grand merci.

Twenty Years and Counting!

So many people either have a personal connection to the Farm or have developed a love of the special place it is. "The Founding of the Friends of the Central Experimental Farm in 1988 gave the people of Ottawa and surrounding area their first opportunity to take concrete action on behalf of the Farm they love." (Helen Smith, *Ottawa's Farm*, p.125)

Started by Peter Elliott (page 4), the Friends of the Farm organization grew quickly. Hours and hours have been spent with AAFC staff in the Ornamental Gardens and Arboretum, as well as on fund-raising events (see page 12) or special projects. The latter include restoring and enhancing the heritage rose garden and the peony, lilac and iris collections; creating a Preston heritage lilac garden, Explorer rose garden and hosta garden; running Donor Tree and Shelterbelt programs; cataloguing the dried plant collection at AAFC's Herbarium; acting as founding partner for the Fletcher Wildlife Garden; raising awareness of the historic, heritage nature

of the Farm by publishing *Ottawa's Farm* and *For the Love of Trees*; and helping to ensure that thousands of visitors to the Farm each year continue to enjoy open access to what is both an historic site and a beautiful greenspace.

With your support

The FCEF is strong as it begins the next 20 years. Membership of the Friends totalled 720 in July and is growing. There are 250 volunteers, including some who were there at the beginning. Dorothy Forsyth (page 5), for example, has recorded 20 years of volunteer work with the Friends! The Friends database was created in the mid-1990s and includes the names of almost a thousand volunteers and two thousand members.

With your support and participation, the Friends can continue to make a difference over the next 20 years, providing the opportunity for hundreds more people to act on behalf of the Farm they love.

Welcome to New Friends

Our organization is growing! The newsletter team welcomes all new members and volunteers to the Friends of the Farm. We hope you enjoy being with the Friends in whatever capacity you choose. Many thanks for your support.

We would love to hear from you if you have any feedback or suggestions. This goes for both new and old Friends.

Our team preparing for the 2009 Book Sale is looking for help, or perhaps you would like to contribute to the newsletter? If these opportunities interest you, or if you would like to volunteer in some other way, please contact the office at info@friendsofthefarm.ca or by phone at 613-230-3276 on Monday to Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Bienvenue aux nouveaux membres des Amis

Notre organisation prend de l'expansion! L'équipe du Bulletin souhaite la bienvenue à tous les nouveaux membres et bénévoles des Amis de la ferme expérimentale. Nous espérons que votre expérience avec les Amis de la ferme expérimentale vous sera agréable et bénéfique, quel que soit votre rôle, et nous vous remercions de votre appui.

Nous serions ravis de connaître les réactions et suggestions de tous les membres, anciens ou nouveaux.

Vous pourriez peut-être aider l'équipe qui prépare la vente de livres 2009 ou collaborer à la rédaction du Bulletin? Si ces possibilités vous intéressent ou si vous souhaitez offrir vos services d'autres façons, n'hésitez pas à communiquer avec le bureau des Amis à l'adresse info@friendsofthefarm.ca ou, par téléphone, au numéro 613-230-3276, du lundi au jeudi entre 9 h et 15 h.

Events - Activités

September - Septembre

17
Annual General Meeting, 7 p.m.,
Sir John Carling Building.

Assemblée générale annuelle, 19 h,
immeuble Sir John Carling.

18
Escorted Bus Tour to Prince Edward
County Wineries. An exciting one day bus
trip to two wineries. Wine tastings and
lunch included. Leaves Ottawa at 8 a.m.,
returns at 7 p.m. \$105 for members,
\$120 for non-members.

Excursion en autobus chez les viticulteurs
de Prince Edward County. Cette escapade
d'une journée permettra de visiter deux
vignobles. Le déjeuner et les dégustations
de vins sont inclus. Départ d'Ottawa à 8 h,
retour à 19 h. Membres: 105 \$, autres: 120 \$.

Information/Renseignements: Denise
Kennedy - DeniseKennedy@rogers.com,
613-738-9724.

November - Novembre

1 - 2
Craft and Bake Sale, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.,
Building 72, Arboretum. Free. Shop for
beautiful and unique crafts while you
enjoy delicious baked goods and tea.

Vente d'artisanat et de pâtisseries, de 10 h
à 16 h, Immeuble 72, Arboretum.
Gratuit. Venez admirer les oeuvres
originales des artisans tout en savourant
une pâtisserie avec une bonne tasse de thé.

Paradise Found!

Come and enjoy a presentation entitled *How We Found Paradise* by Joanie Flynt, Horticulturist, and Karen Molson, biographer and historian, who were co-producers and presenters of the popular and dramatic *Paradise Found* Lecture Series.

Through anecdotes, slides and discussion, we will get an inside view of the trials and triumphs of creating these extraordinary photo documentaries on Sissinghurst (of Virginia and Vita), Jekyll and Lutyens, The Lost Garden of Heligan, Monet's Muse, and most recently the Love of the Labyrinth.

Wednesday, September 17, 2008
at 7 p.m.

(at the Friends of the Farm
Annual General Meeting)

Sir John Carling Building Cafeteria
Central Experimental Farm.



A photo from the *Paradise Found* Lecture series on Sissinghurst with inset photos of Virginia Woolf and Vita Sackville-West

Peter Elliott – Founding Father

The idea for the Friends of the Central Experimental Farm came from Peter Elliott, who got the organization going in 1988. He then served as General Manager of the Friends until his retirement in 1995. Peter and his wife Dianne, a long-time volunteer with the Friends, live at Mississippi Lake near Carleton Place. He recalls how the Friends got started...



Photo: R. Hincheliff

In 1965, I began work as a chemical technologist at the Food Research Institute of Agriculture Canada. Housed in the Dairy Building directly across from the Main Barn, I watched busloads of tourists coming to see the Showcase Herd, the Ornamental Gardens and Arboretum.

I got involved with the Ottawa Tulip Festival in 1977 and became President from 1978 to 1982. I was Vice Chairman of Visitor Services at the Ottawa Tourism Bureau when Ben Babelowsky was Chairman of the Bureau. In 1979, I was asked by Agriculture Canada to be a liaison officer for the U.N. World Food Congress and, in 1982, I was seconded to Parks Canada to be the program coordinator for the 150th anniversary of the Rideau Canal, at which time I helped to get the Friends of the Rideau Canal established.

When I returned to Agriculture in 1985, I was asked to organize the centennial program for the national Experimental Farms system, to occur in 1986. After that was over, I had been out of Research for so long, there was no job for me!

The idea for the Friends

Meanwhile, changes were taking place in the Research function. Ornamental Gardens and Arboretum funding was under reconsideration, as they were no longer research functions. The Showcase Herd was also threatened. The public in Ottawa were expressing concerns. One issue of the day

was the helicopter pad for the Civic Hospital. The public perception was that this would be the first step in the selling of the Farm. (In fact, the site where the helicopter pad now is, had been a terminal for the former Ottawa streetcar system, so there was a precedent for its public use.)

To resolve such concerns, I put together a proposal for a public/Agriculture Canada partnership, called the Friends of the Central Experimental Farm. This grabbed the attention of the Deputy Minister and the executive of Agriculture. The concept had emerged from my interest in tourism and the need to retain the Farm for public enjoyment. My experience as founding member and President of the Friends of the Rideau Canal also helped. With the help of Alan Gratiias, former Executive Director of External Affairs at Agriculture, we got the organization incorporated and were on our way. In effect I had created my own job!

With the connections I had made in the tourism industry, such as Ben Babelowsky, and with senior people in the Department who were retiring, such as Ron Halstead and Tom Anstey, I was able to put together a Board of Directors for the Friends. Bob Cook agreed to be our first President. 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.

Early interest

There was, however, no money in the kitty. My wife Dianne was a bit upset when I wrote a personal cheque for \$200 for the incorporation, but came around when I explained that if it didn't happen, I wouldn't have a job!

The Deputy Minister, J.J. Noreau, wondered if we could perhaps get 50 people interested. Friends of the Farm set up a display at the Ottawa Exhibition and signed up about 60 members. Later that year, we set up our booth at the annual Chrysanthemum Show and attracted 300 new members. The DM was delighted! We had funds to work with, lots of willing volunteers and ideas to pursue which would address the concerns of the CEF and Agriculture Canada.

We started talking to the Museum of Science and Technology about taking over the Showcase Herd, which is what eventually happened. The Herd is now part of the Canada Agriculture Museum.

We wanted the public to have a stake in the Arboretum and with Trevor Cole, Curator of the Arboretum, came up with the Trees

in the Arboretum program. The opportunity to make a donation for a plaque against a tree was very popular and the program was very successful.

“...fortunate to attract many active volunteers”

Trevor Cole had begun the creation of a Hosta Garden and this was moved along by dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers with the Friends, such as George Vorauer, who brought in Wally Parsons as the second President of the Friends of the Farm. Wally, at the time, was Vice President of Neilson Dairies.

We supported the Ottawa Field Naturalists Club's proposal for a wildlife garden, we prepared a brief to Agriculture Canada on the naming of buildings and roads, and we started looking at getting the Farm designated as a heritage site.

We were fortunate to be able to attract many active volunteers. Many people had moved into apartments but still wanted to work in a garden as they had done in their own homes. We also benefitted from generous corporate members.

I remember one of the early volunteers was Lorraine Lee. Her husband, Leonard Lee, founder of Lee Valley Tools, noticed a peony support being used by the volunteers and asked Trevor Cole if there was a patent on it. Trevor told him that was very unlikely, since it had been around the Farm for a hundred years. So the peony support you see in the Lee Valley Catalogue now was modelled in part on the one that had been used by the Friends of the Farm!

Thanks to Eric Moore and many others in the past, and to Doug Shouldice and his team now, the Friends remains a noted volunteer organization in Ottawa. Congratulations on the 20th anniversary!

Peter Elliott



Photo: Mary Bramley

Peter Elliott in 1992

Dorothy Forsyth – Twenty-Year Member and Volunteer

“I am so grateful to the Friends of the Farm. It has been such a delightful place to work,” says Dorothy Forsyth. She joined Friends of the Farm in 1988 and has been a member and volunteer ever since.

She worked at the Chrysanthemum Show in that first year, helping to sign up the 300 new members to the Friends that got the organization going. Appointed to the Board of Directors of the Friends in May 1989, she served until 1992 looking after membership activities and events. She was coordinator of the 1991 ‘Mum’ Show and co-chair of the Silent Art Auction in 1992.

A variety of tasks have kept her busy as a volunteer since then and she now helps out with events and in the office. Dorothy has also made a generous donation to the new “Safeguard our Future” Fund.

Four careers in one department

She retired from Agriculture Canada in 1980. Dorothy says she had been lucky there. “It is not often that one is able to enjoy four careers in one department.” With degrees in agriculture and library science, she worked as a researcher in plant nutrition in the Chemistry Division, then as a librarian. Later, she was a senior systems analyst and, finally, Acting Director of Grains and Special Crops.

She worked for six years at the Summerland Experimental Farm in British Columbia before coming to Ottawa in 1954. During her time as librarian for Agriculture Canada,



Photo: R. Hincholiff

she visited all the Farms across the country. “Most people from Ottawa came in for a day, did their business and left. I got to spend what time I needed at the Farms and labs, sorting out their library needs and getting to know their Superintendents, Directors and staff.” She has many stories to tell, from picnics in Whitehorse to eating eels in Cornerbrook.

After her retirement in 1980, she continued her volunteer association with the Sports Federation of Canada, was on the Board of Directors of Art Lending of Ottawa, and was with Save the Children for about 10 years. She has participated in the Clan MacLeod Society and also indulged her passion for the monarchy. In

2003, she received a Golden Jubilee Medal Award for her scrapbook collection of the Royal Family and her volunteer work with FCEF. In 1969, with her late husband, she met Queen Elizabeth and was invited to visit the Queen Mother at Clarence House in 1984.

“We need the Friends to help watch out for the Farm”

She is sure the public appreciates having the Farm in Ottawa, but doesn’t think enough people are aware of the Friends of the Farm. “We need the Friends”, Dorothy says, “to help watch out for the Farm.” She recalls threats to the Farm as far back as 1957, when there

was a proposal to build the R.A. Centre in the Arboretum. Fortunately, Dr K.W. Neatby, Director of the Science Service at the time, was able to intervene and the R.A. Centre was built on Riverside Drive.

Dorothy carries application forms for the Friends with her in the car. Recently, after speaking to a dog walker, she received a completed application form and membership fee, plus \$20 for each of the person’s two dogs. Dorothy thanked her for the donation!

As we celebrate 20 years of the Friends, we also celebrate 20 years of good fortune in having the dedication and support of Dorothy Forsyth.

Page 1 photo captions

(clockwise from top):

1. Jean Currie leading a lilac tour.
2. MaryLin Deschamps and Arnold Hodgins.
3. Doug Shouldice at Victorian Tea time.
4. Donna Pape and Barbara Casson in the Friends’ office.
5. Diana Dakers-Ryan, Peg McEwan, Barbara Wysocka, Peggy McHugh, Catherine Hooper, Rosalie Robar and Fiona Cowell in the Rose Garden.
6. Paul Bertrand, member of the lilac team.

Photos 1-5 by Richard Hincholiff;

Photo 6 by Maura Giuliani.

Award from the International Lilac Society

The International Lilac Society’s President’s Award was presented this year to Friends of the Central Experimental Farm, “For their inspirational work in the production of their website and CD. It is the promotion of the Lilac at its best.”

Visit the lilacs at
www.friendsofthefarm.ca/lilacs.htm
 and look for the CD at
 Friends’ events or at the office.



On behalf of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, I would like to thank the Friends of the Farm's staff and volunteers who, working in close collaboration with the Central Experimental Farm grounds staff, dedicate themselves to ensuring the beauty of the CEF. Canada is the only country with a working farm in the heart of its capital, and the Farm certainly would not be what it is today without your tireless efforts. May it be a beautiful and stunning place for years to come!

**Yaprak Baltacioglu, Deputy Minister,
Agriculture and Agri-food Canada.**



People in Ottawa love the Central Experimental Farm. It is a unique site of cultural and heritage landscape in the heart of our city. We all know that the farm would not be the popular and well-preserved place it is today if it were not for the thousands of volunteer hours dedicated by the Friends of the Central Experimental Farm in the past twenty years. Thank you for all your hard work and all the best for the many years ahead.

**Paul Dewar, MP
Ottawa Centre**



The anniversary of your 20 years of service is a great opportunity to celebrate and congratulate all members and volunteers for their dedicated work and commitment to the Central Experimental Farm, the Ornamental Gardens and Arboretum.

Your organization has played a vital role in the protection and promotion of these important sites over the years, and has greatly contributed to making Canada's Capital Region a world-class Capital – a vibrant and lush region for all to enjoy.

Here's to another 20 years of success!

**Marie Lemay, P.Eng., ing.
Chief Executive Officer
National Capital Commission**



PRIME MINISTER . PREMIER MINISTRE

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to the members of the Friends of the Central Experimental Farm on the occasion of its 20th anniversary.

Maintaining the beauty and character of one of the national capital's most treasured public sites is certainly a challenging task. Yet, over the past twenty years, your members have successfully upheld this tradition by hosting numerous social and fundraising activities, as well as promoting and caring for this stunning oasis of green space in the heart of the city. I would like to commend you for your outstanding efforts: each year, you contribute over 15,000 hours of time, and an immeasurable amount of enthusiasm, to the Central Experimental Farm's ornamental gardens, arboretum and other public spaces. I know that the community, and countless visitors from near and far, thank you for your voluntarism and dedication to this worthwhile endeavour.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, please accept my best wishes for a memorable anniversary celebration, as well as continued success in the years to come.

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

OTTAWA
2008

On behalf of all the employees of the Canada Agriculture Museum, congratulations on your 20th anniversary. The volunteers, staff and donors who support Friends of the Farm truly make a positive difference to the Central Experimental Farm. Through your efforts, visitors to the Central Experimental Farm continue to enjoy and benefit from this unique historical and educational asset in Canada's Capital.

**Michelle Dondo-Tardiff
Director General
Canada Agriculture Museum**

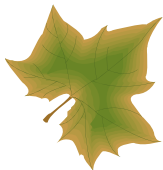


It is a distinct pleasure to extend my sincere congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of your 20th anniversary. The Central Experimental Farm is a unique treasure in Canada's Capital and in the Ward I represent at City Hall. I am proud to represent the municipal interests of this agricultural facility and working farm, which is abundant with fields of grain, animals and ornamental gardens.

I would like to thank all the dedicated and caring volunteers who give freely of their time and talent to maintain and protect this beautiful green space for the enjoyment of the residents of Ottawa and visitors from across Canada and beyond. The Farm is fortunate to have a group of friends who care about this facility and continue to promote the historical and heritage significance of this internationally acclaimed centre for agricultural research.

On behalf of the residents of River Ward, thank you for your hard work and commitment to the preservation of Canada's Central Experimental Farm.

Maria McRae
River Ward City Councillor



I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your dedication and passion to protecting and promoting the Experimental Farm in our community. The Farm serves as an important historical and agricultural monument that stands as a living reminder of our history, and a breathing example of our future. Without your support and volunteerism, the Farm would not be as successful as it is today.

Be proud of your contributions! Together, you are helping to build a greener and more beautiful community for all of us.

Thank you again for all your hard work.

Yasir Naqvi, M.P.P
Ottawa Centre



MAYOR . MAIRE

On behalf of Members of City Council and the citizens of Ottawa, it is my distinct pleasure to extend my sincerest congratulations to the Friends of the Central Experimental Farm in celebration of its 20th anniversary.

For two decades, the Friends has been instrumental in showcasing the world's only working farm in the heart of a capital city. Thanks to the Friends' invaluable volunteer efforts, the Farm assists to highlight the preponderant role played by agriculture in the building of Canada.

The Friends is to be recognized especially for its maintenance and preservation of the Arboretum and Ornamental Gardens.

Allow me to convey my best wishes to all the Friends of the Farm for a very productive and most memorable twentieth anniversary year.

Sincerely,

Larry O'Brien

Congratulations to the hundreds of volunteers who have made up the Friends of the Farm over the past 20 years. Through your love of this national treasure in the heart of Ottawa, you have preserved, promoted and protected the farm for generations to enjoy.

Jim Watson, M.P.P.
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

The Friends of the Farm give me hope. Without people engaged to sustain the public realm of their community, there's not much of a future for anyone. The Friends of the Farm prove that people in Ottawa care about their city and their country in an important and meaningful way that makes a difference for all of us. Congratulations on your 20th anniversary celebrations. I like to think all of Canada celebrates with you.

Clive Doucet,
Councillor, Capital Ward



I'm delighted to hear that the Central Experimental Farm is doing its wonderful work for Ottawa and the world. It was at the Farm that my mother and I drew inspiration for gardening, and trips to the Arboretum on Sundays by streetcar were a great treat!

May you keep the Farm intact, even in the urbanization that threatens it.

The Rt. Hon.
Adrienne Clarkson,
PC, CC, CMM, CD

Other 2008 Anniversaries...

James Fletcher, “the Bug and Weed Man”

James Fletcher died one hundred years ago, aged 56. He was the first entomologist and botanist hired at the Central Experimental Farm and the man responsible for the layout and initial plantings of the Arboretum.

In a tribute, William Saunders, Director of the Central Experimental Farm, wrote of him as “a beloved member of our staff, a most highly esteemed fellow worker, one whose urbanity and kindly spirit endeared him to all.”

Born in Kent in 1852, he was posted to Canada in 1874 by his employer the Bank of British North America. After two years, he joined the Library of Parliament in Ottawa, where he devoted his spare time to the study of entomology and botany, in which subjects he became a recognized authority.

“My whole life is a holiday, because I love my work.”

In 1887, he was appointed Entomologist and Botanist to the Dominion Experimental Farms and, according to William Saunders, he “was thus enabled to devote himself entirely to natural history and his work became the great pleasure of his life.”

“Why should I take a holiday?” he once replied to a friend’s question. “My whole life is a holiday, because I love my work.”

Fletcher was responsible for the Arboretum until the spring of 1895, when he acknowledged he had too much to do

and recommended that the young W.T. Macoun take over. Macoun later became the Dominion Horticulturist.

Never too busy to help

Fletcher set up an “insect intelligence service”, composed of 400 farmers, fruit growers, gardeners, etc. in all provinces across Canada who, under his direction, observed and reported on destructive insects and their remedies.

An affable man, he would instruct people to ‘Just slip it in an envelope and address it to the Bug and Weed Man, Ottawa, never mind the stamp’.

A Department of Agriculture report in 1939 on fifty years of progress on Dominion Experimental Farms says that Fletcher “laboured assiduously, collecting, classifying, studying, writing, lecturing, conversing, strewing cheer and kindness along the pathway of life. He was never too busy to help a seeker after knowledge”.

Bound in annual volumes, his letters are reported to occupy about 2.5 metres of shelf space at the Public Archives. He wrote 24 annual reports at the Department of Agriculture, and authored several pamphlets and bulletins. His book entitled *Farm Weeds of Canada* (1906) is a collector’s item.

James Fletcher was a founding member of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists’ Club. He canoed, camped and was one of the organizers of the Ottawa Football Club. A friend wrote that his “sturdy form, in



Photo: AAFC Archives

black and red stripes, was a pillar of strength in the scrimmages”.

While tobogganing with friends at the Farm in 1905 he had an accident which confined him to his house for two months. After the accident a friend reported that Fletcher often said his health was not what it had been before. He died on November 8, 1908, and was buried at the Beechwood Cemetery.

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists’ Club erected the James Fletcher memorial fountain to be seen near the main barn on the NCC Driveway. Also named in his honour is the Fletcher Wildlife Garden on Prince of Wales Drive.

W.T. Macoun, “ever the gentleman”



Photo: FCEF Archives

William Terrill Macoun died 75 years ago in 1933, aged 64. He was responsible for the Arboretum for 15 years from 1895, became Chief of the Horticulture Division in 1898 and was Dominion Horticulturist from 1910 until his death.

His personal passion was fruit-breeding. Macoun continued the apple-breeding work begun by William Saunders, Director of Experimental Farms, and by 1926 had

named 174 varieties, notably Lobo and Melba. His interests went far beyond fruit and he left a legacy of flowering plants that continue to be enjoyed in the Ornamental Gardens. He built an international reputation for the Arboretum.

A Department of Agriculture report in 1939 on 50 years of progress on Dominion Experimental Farms says “Modest and ever the gentleman was W.T. Macoun, who, although not the first Horticulturist of the system, virtually built his division”.

One day sick in 45 years

Macoun was a man who “wrote much, spoke much, did much” and who “...during over 45 years of government service had only one day’s sick leave up to his final illness”.

In 1920 Macoun hired Isabella Preston as a horticulturist. One of the young Preston

lilacs in the new Preston Heritage Lilac Garden is named ‘W.T. Macoun’.

Like Fletcher, he was active in the Ottawa Field-Naturalists’ Club. He enjoyed reciting poetry and was interested in photography, but “was as likely to relax by working on the perennial border beside his official residence as by doing anything else”. (*Ottawa’s Farm*, Helen Smith)

Macoun also left his mark on the city of Ottawa. In 1920, he was appointed to the Ottawa Improvement Commission, later to become the National Capital Commission. While he was Commissioner, a number of parks and driveways were built or expanded, such as The Driveway, Confederation Square, Island Park Drive, Rockcliffe Park and Majors’ Hill Park.

The Macoun Memorial Garden, dedicated in 1936, was built on the site of Macoun’s official residence and is a favourite with visitors to the Ornamental Gardens.

A National Historic Site



Plaques on the NCC Driveway.

“Not only is the Central Experimental Farm one of the most scenic places in the Ottawa area, it is also one of the most historically significant,” says the Honourable Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food (AAFC) and Minister for the Canadian Wheat Board.

The Farm became officially known in 1998 as a National Historic Site and Cultural Heritage Landscape. This was, in no small part, brought about by the urging of Friends of the Farm, such as Peter Elliott and Don Graham.

The Farm is “a cultural landscape reflecting the 19th-century philosophy of agriculture”, a philosophy which meant a commitment to progress through scientific knowledge, order, efficiency and good planning. Several plaques have been installed around the Farm by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

What does it mean?

“The National Historic Site reassures Canadians that the site known as “Ottawa’s Farm” will remain an important part of the country’s landscape for

By the Numbers...

- 10 years for the Farm as an “Historic” site
- 20 years for the Friends of the Farm
- 25 years for the Canada Agriculture Museum
- 75 years since the death of W.T. Macoun
- 100 years since the death of James Fletcher

generations to come”, says AAFC (*News Release, February 19, 2008*).

The designation means that change will be managed in a way which recognizes the historic contribution of the site. An advisory committee (including a Friends of the Farm representative) advises the department on development proposals for the CEF and the National Capital Commission has final federal land use approval.



Fletcher Fountain on the NCC Driveway

Birthday Fun at the Canada Agriculture Museum



Photo: Canada Agriculture Museum

Congratulations to the Canada Agriculture Museum on its 25th anniversary.

In 1920, Dr. E.S. Hopkins began a collection of items of historical interest at Agriculture Canada. The collection grew and in 1967 it was transferred to National Museums of Canada (NMC). Some items were sent to the National Museum of Man and the rest went to the National Museum of Science and Technology.

Agriculture Canada and NMC agreed early in 1983 to use the upper level of the Dairy Barn for a museum. After some renovations to the building, the first two exhibitions were installed and the official opening of the Agricultural Museum occurred on October 12 of that year, in the presence of the Hon. Eugene Whelan, Minister of Agriculture Canada and the Hon. Francis Fox, Minister of Communications Canada.

The museum plans to celebrate its birthday on October 12 of the Thanksgiving weekend. Did you grow up visiting the animals at the Museum? Plan a visit October 11-13 with your parents, your children, and your friends.

For further details check the Museum’s website, www.agriculture.technomuses.ca.

In Memory

George Vorauer – Going the Extra Step



Photo: FCEF Archives

George became an active volunteer with the Friends of the Farm in the early 1990s. He took on greater responsibilities and served on the Board as Director of Activities from 1994 to 2000, during which time much was accomplished. His enthusiasm, direction and active participation were major factors in the success of many projects.

His passion, commitment and organization skills were evident in his early success in building the hosta garden. Over several years, George, Friends of the Farm teams, and students from Algonquin College spent hours turning AAFC's idea for this new garden into reality. "It was a labour of love, and Mr. Vorauer hopes that romance will stay in the air. He said the pathways are almost two metres wide, 'enough room for a couple to walk hand in hand'." (*Ottawa Citizen*, June 1997)

George Vorauer died on May 15, 2008, aged 79, and our deepest sympathies go to his wife Regina, and to his family and friends.

Many individual projects in the Friends' Millennium Plan were initiated by George. The old Rose Garden was brought back to its early splendour, a garden of Explorer

roses was built, and the peony and lilac collections restored. He was able to find or link up with dedicated horticultural experts and, with George's tireless organizational and practical help, these experts successfully completed such special projects.

At a memorial service, André Vorauer described a characteristic of his father as 'don't hold back...go the extra step'. We saw this in George's volunteer work at the Friends of the Farm. He brought ideas, plans, and great energy and exuberance to his various endeavours with the Friends, and was always striving for the best.

Those at the Friends of the Farm who worked with George will remember him with great fondness and much appreciation for the inspiration and example he set.

A 'George Vorauer' peony was launched and officially planted in the Ornamental Gardens last fall. Along with the hosta, peony, lilac and rose gardens, it will remind us of his contribution to the beauty of the Farm.



Photos: R. Hinchcliff

Ken Last – A Great Volunteer

Ken Last died suddenly on June 21, 2008, at the age of 60. He was an active volunteer with the Friends of the Farm for five years. An avid crafter, he participated with his jewellery and helped with the set up and dismantling of the Craft, Tea and Bake Sale. Ken's workshops in twig woodworking were

very popular, one with a twig table and the other making a bird-house. He was a strong force in the Book Sale, both last year and this year, with the set up and organization of the books.

Ken had become a close friend to many of us at Friends of the Farm and will be

greatly missed. Our deepest sympathies go to his partner Garnet Millar and to his family and friends.



Photo: Denise Kennedy

Fund-Raising for the Farm ... and fun too! (continued from page 12)

thing to do. The public was invited to join the artists at a vernissage the evening before the show opened. Wine, coffee and light food were served and one could view the art and place early bids.

Our current event, Art on the Farm, is held on the beautiful grounds around Building 72. Artists bring their own art, set it up where they wish and do their packing up when finished. A cash BBQ and lemonade are available to the artists and the public if they so wish, and for that we have two volunteers each year. The total number of volunteers needed for this event is relatively small compared to the Art Auction, which makes life a lot easier, although the event does not make as much money for us as the Auction did.

“For the Love of the Farm” Art Exhibition was started in 2003 by Valerie Cousins. A single artist is selected to show and sell work featuring the Farm, with a percentage of the proceeds going to the Friends. A vernissage is held the evening before opening day and the volunteers who have helped during the event are invited to a wrap-up evening. Farm staff have kindly allowed us to use their common room for the show. This event may resume next year.

Bus Tours: The first bus tours were arranged by the Friends in the summer of 1989 and offered for about 10 years. We are very fortunate to have Denise Kennedy who has re-introduced escorted tours, beginning with a tour to “Canada Blooms”

in March 2007. The tours are very popular and have raised a large amount of money.

The Used Book Sale: Starting in the new year, several days each week, volunteers sort donated books into categories. Books are brought up to the sale area and for three days it is intensive selling. Profits are in the range of \$5,000, which goes to the Farm. A good profit but a lot of work. Once again it is due to the volunteers that FCEF is able to accomplish this.

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who give a great deal of their time and energy to all our events. With their help, we are able to raise funds for the Friends to devote to the Farm.

Diana Dakers-Ryan

Green Thumbs Get Started

“Many of our members are prepared to volunteer their time to assist in the maintenance of the C.E.F. garden or conduct public tours of the gardens. Trevor Cole will meet with you at building #72 in the Arboretum to establish “Green Thumb Teams,” allocating times and garden areas for each team to work in. We want to hear from you!”
(FCEF Newsletter, April 1989)

“Tools have been purchased and sixteen volunteers have logged some 200 hours of happy gardening wearing their Green Thumb aprons. The week day crews have worked side by side with the professional staff while the weekend crew has done a sensational job on their own in the nursery.” *(FCEF Newsletter update, Summer 1989)*

“This is to express my personal

appreciation of the work done by the volunteers of Friends of the Farm in helping with the maintenance of the gardens, nursery and arboretum this summer. Without their efforts the gardens would not have been nearly such a credit to Agriculture Canada and to Ottawa...
Sincerely,
Trevor Cole
Curator, Dominion Arboretum”
(FCEF Newsletter, December 1989)

Heartfelt Thanks to Everyone! Un gros merci à tous nos bénévoles!

From set-up to take-down, with 327 hours of volunteer assistance in between, we can declare our second annual Used Book Sale another very successful venture. We must also recognize the teams of volunteers who faithfully sorted donated books, as far back as November 2007.

Les employés d’Agriculture Canada, ainsi que nos membres et nos bénévoles et le public en général ont profité des aubaines qui leur étaient offertes! Nous avons vu plusieurs personnes revenir plusieurs fois pour faire leurs achats. Quelle chance de choisir leurs livres pour l’été.

The staff at Agriculture Canada were happy to come and shop, as were volunteers and members of the Friends and the general public. We saw people coming back time and time again. What an opportunity to stock up for their summer leisure hours. Some even hinted that some of their purchases were for Christmas gifts! There were bargains for everyone!

We will start accepting books again in the Fall. Please call FCEF at 613-230-3276



Photo: P. Hecht

to make arrangements.

Nous recommencerons la collection de vos livres à l’automne. Veuillez communiquer avec les Amis de la Ferme au 613-230-3276.

Denise Kennedy



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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Fund-Raising for the Farm ... and fun too!

In the early years of the Friends, there was the Chrysanthemum Show, Talley-Ho Wagon rides, sales by the Craft Group and the Silent Art Auction. **Diana Dakers-Ryan**, a volunteer with the Friends since 1996 and in charge of events for the last 10 years, writes about current events.

The first and last event for each year is the **Craft Tea and Bake Sale**. The Friends' Craft Group began with the successful sale of Christmas wreaths in 1991 and, with Louise Moore and Dianne Elliott leading the way, grew quickly with many sales during the year at different venues. In later years, sales were held in Building 72 and crafters invited from outside the Friends. Their numbers have increased from 15 in the early days to 24 now. In April this year, the sale was a great success raising \$2,480. Our survey, done with the help of Mavis Lewis, showed we are going in the right direction and the suggestions will be incorporated in the sale of November 1st and 2nd.

The **Rare and Unusual Plant Sale** was started 12 years ago in the parking lot south of the Gardens. Initially it was quite a small event, with local growers bringing plants to sell from their vehicles. It is now our biggest and best event each year. A long line up of people wait for the start of the sale. We have 36 growers, a FCEF volunteer plant table and a Master Gardeners' table for plant advice. Friends of the Farm partners with a food bank, and food is collected at the entrance as a community project. With the help of three faithful volunteers, the parking lot is lined out the day before so the vendors and their trucks may arrive early Sunday morning.

The first **Strawberry Social** was held on July 1st, 2002. FCEF had met with the Museum to find an event to do together that would suit both our age groups. It was decided to join them on Canada Day with a 'food event'. Shouldice Farms was



Photo: R. Hinchcliff

Musicians Angela Beale and Roger McCullough at the 2006 Victorian Tea.

contacted and they were happy to give us a group rate for the berries, which they continue to do. The first year we were really naive and used ice cream – you can imagine how that was. We had to use the Museum's tiny fridge in the barn and run back and forth to try to keep it frozen. The next year, canned whipped cream worked much better. We have evolved into a very efficient team for the event. Live music this year was nice. Our profits have doubled since the early days.

10 Miler: In 1998, Peter Jones, a runner with the National Capital Runner's Association, came to FCEF with a proposal. The NCRA were doing a lot of training on the Farm and Peter asked how we would feel if they did a 10 mile run on the roadways of the Farm with the profits going to the Friends of the Farm. We jumped at the chance and offered our services. We help at the water stations and with the marshalling, and supply the muffins, watermelon and oranges. The event is now in its tenth year, our volunteers still help and we gladly accept the profits of approximately \$600 each year. Peter Jones has since passed away, but is remembered fondly.

The first **Victorian Tea** was held in 1998. The idea was that tea on the grounds would entice the public to come to this wonderful space - and they did, 200 of them. In the first few years, we borrowed china tea cups from Good Companions. In response to our advertising, we now have 550 cups and saucers, all marked and boxed ready to use, thank you all. Good Companions kindly help us prepare food for the tea in their kitchen. Several years ago we found wonderful volunteer musicians, Angela and Roger, who research and play Canadian Victorian music on the piano and recorder. Many of our guests dress in Victorian costume and fancy hats, and there is a prize for the best hat. Tea in the Arboretum under the trees is lovely and we hope it takes us all back to the 'old days on the Farm.'

Art Auction and Art on the Farm: The first Silent Art Auction was held in June 1991. Artists donated their art to Friends of the Farm, a silent auction was held and a percentage of the proceeds went to the artist. The auction needed a large number of very dedicated volunteers; nevertheless it was an interesting and fun

(continued on page 11)

NEW MEMBER REGISTRATION FORM	TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP	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
NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ POSTAL CODE: _____ PROVINCE: _____ TELEPHONE #: _____ FAX #: _____ E-MAIL: _____	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 \$ _____	
INTEREST IN VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	