

Bi Monthly Update

March/April 2022



Photography by Jessi McConnell

President's Message

Clayton Spears | Cottonwood Mansion Preservation Foundation

RECOGNIZING OUR VOLUNTEERS

For a man who grew up near a community east of Peterborough which still had crank operated wall phones, it seems like only yesterday when I accompanied my uncle to his neighbour's farm to look at a new machine called a combine and him saying; "That thing will never replace the threshing machine. Look at that, the straw is going right out on the ground" or rushing home from public school to watch and hear a man on a small black & white television by the name of Buffalo Bob shout; "Say Kids....What Time Is It?....It's Howdy Doody Time Again!".

Fond memories are what our senior volunteers share as they reminisce about the hard work, dedication and good times each one contributed in helping to bring our beloved Cottonwood back to its former glory. They also highlight and enjoy talking about the number of memorable events that have made the Mansion a 'go to attraction' in Haldimand County over the last few decades. With Larry Hamilton's drive and the support from a multitude of men and women, his dream became a reality and I'm certain if he were still with us today, he would be quick to say; "I couldn't have achieved everything that has taken place without their help and support." Sadly, we have lost many of our original volunteers and while those still with us keep Cottonwood in their thoughts and prayers, they are no longer able to physically be involved. However, having said this, we do have two long time volunteers currently serving on our board of directors.

Richard Hoover, a direct descendant of the original Hoover (Huber) family who purchased the land in the late 1700's and on which the Mansion now stands is our immediate past president and Catherine Stidsen continue to serve. With regard to Catherine Berry Stidsen, Helen and I first met her in 1974 when she and her late husband Bent were clearing a portion of an Irish Line (Cayuga) bush property close to our residence for the purposes of building a home for themselves. When I walked over to introduce myself, my first reaction was one of amazement because what I witnessed were two obviously highly educated 'city' folks who appeared to be well out of their comfort zones. My first impression of Catherine proved to be a false assumption on my part because shortly after Bent's untimely passing, she fully involved herself in the community by taking hands-on participation with several local groups and organizations. In fact, when I approached her to assist me in establishing CayugaFest in 2002, she immediately came on board as the marketing chairman and her "Good News Stories" in the Haldimand Press became legendary.

Again, when I asked her to join Cottonwood Mansion Museum in a similar position, she did so without hesitation and this involvement was an invaluable asset in helping to create a much broader awareness of Cottonwood's value to Haldimand County. When we reflect on times past, there is an old adage which says; "A lot of water has gone under the bridge" and there is no doubt technology has us now living in an entirely different era; however, by the same token, we need to acknowledge those who have laid the groundwork for what we now enjoy. In closing, I wish to offer a sincere THANK YOU to all of our past and present volunteers and also offer a warm welcome to those who will join with us by helping to sustain Cottonwood Mansion Museum for future generations.

Clayt Spears, President

Cottonwood Mansion Preservation
Foundation

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Past Events

Our Valentine Afternoon Tea experience was a sold out event! Guests enjoyed a delicious catered tea from great businesses such as The Windmill Country Market and Carluke Orchards. The experience completed with a historic house tour of the mansion which included a special Courtship Exhibit in our ballroom.

Despite the poor weather, Pancake Day served just under 100 guests during the event. We would like to take this time to offer our most sincere appreciation and gratitude to Muddy Lane Maple Syrup who donated the syrup for the event and tapped our maple trees as a demonstration for visitors. We would also like to greatly thank Cayuga Foodland who kindly donated all the food supplies for the event and a special thank you to St. Jacobs Maple Syrup Museum and Haldimand County Museum & Archives who loaned their incredible maple syrup artifacts for our exhibit which was displayed in our Music Room (Please see photos on right). This event of course would not have been successful without the amazing support and attendance by our visitors who we are profoundly grateful for!

These events would also not have been possible without the amazing support and dedication of our volunteers! A sincere thank you to our volunteer group who are absolutely incredible!

Please visit page 5 for a list of upcoming events for 2022!



Updates

The improvement to many of Cottonwood's spaces through restoration projects has ignited new interest in Cottonwood as a rental space. We are seeing an increase in bookings and look forward to making Cottonwood Mansion the ideal venue for private events and weddings. For booking inquiries please contact us at: cottonwoodmansion@gmail.com.

There are plans to improve/clean the pond located on the property which will be discussed further in April 2022. The Victorian Garden is anticipated to be completed by June 2022.

As we prepare for another season of memorable special events and programming, we encourage the members of Cottonwood and the general public to stay connected with the latest updates via our website and social media.

www.cottonwoodmansionmuseum.com

Instagram @cottonwoodmansion



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Upcoming Events

Members Event & Open House

Sunday, April 24th, 2022

1pm - 3pm

3:30pm - General Meeting

Mothers Day Afternoon Tea

Saturday, May 7th 2022

11:30am & 2:30pm

SOLD OUT

Bouquet Workshop & Cream Tea

Saturday, May 28th, 2022

Pre-Registration Required

Garden Tea Party

Sunday, May 29th, 2022

11:30am & 2:30pm

Pre-Registration Required

Garage Sale

Saturday, June 11th 2022

8am - 2pm

To donate items to the garage sale please

contact staff at cottonwoodmansion@gmail.com

Garden Fundraiser

In the spring of 2021, the staff and board of Cottonwood Mansion set a plan to design a Victorian garden which would focus on traditional historic garden practices and incorporate popular Victorian flowers. This new venture would allow an additional feature and experience to guests for educational programs, maintaining historic practices and demonstrations, and providing the perfect backdrop for photos and venue rentals.

In May of 2021, the completion of one garden bed was finished along with a row of beautiful hydrangeas. Our mission for 2022 is to complete this garden in its entirety through our Garden Fundraiser weekend from May 28th to 29th.

Please visit cottonwoodmansionmuseum.com for more details.

Or contact cottonwoodmansion@gmail.com



Thank you to all our Supporters and Volunteers

We want to thank all of our Donors and Volunteers especially for their generosity over the past season of 2021 and for the continued support into 2022. Our events would not be possible without you! We hope that we can count on your continued support throughout the rest of the year so that Cottonwood Mansion Museum may continue in our hopes being a beacon as a cultural centre, venue and historic landmark!



If you wish to volunteer or become a monetary donor of Cottonwood Mansion Museum, please contact us at cottonwoodmansion@gmail.com or visit www.cottonwoodmansionmuseum.com

GARDEN FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY MAY 28TH
&
SUNDAY MAY 29TH 2022



Please note that this diagram is not an accurate representation of the Victorian Garden

**THIS MAY, HELP SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS IN COMPLETING OUR
VICTORIAN GARDEN PROJECT!**

BOUQUET WORKSHOP & CREAM TEA

SATURDAY, MAY 28TH 2022

GARDEN TEA PARTY

SUNDAY, MAY 29TH, 2022

More information to follow