



Annual Report 2017 – 2018

Board of Directors

Brent Dykeman (Chair)

Rebecca Stone (Vice-Chair)

Jonathan Meakin (Recording Secretary)

Christine Hall (Treasurer)

Maureen Acker (Past Chair)

Lin Cahill (AHT Rep.)

Tyler Haut

Sarah Collins

Alex Beckett

Cathy Jennex

John Cahill

Other Positions

Jaqueline Leppard (Bookkeeper)

Ashley Marlin (Contracted to provide consulting and administrative support
for the Market and Rentals)

Farmers Market Report

The Hubbards Farmers' Market continues to be a strong weekly community tradition. It is because of our committed volunteers, vendors and community that we are able to be a force in our local economy and among the longest running markets on the South Shore.

We were happy to welcome more unique local vendors to our market last year: Sarah Batten with handmade chocolates, Bullygoth Farm bringing fresh and dried mushrooms, Loco Lemonade using local ingredients to make great lemonades, Krista's Sheep bringing local lamb, Dennis Johnston rounding out our prepared food with Pad Thai in the pavilion, Tidehouse Brewing with local craft beer and Fibers of Life bringing beautiful handmade fair trade bags.

With the completion of the Lin Cahill Pavilion we were able to expand vendor spaces into our back meadow adding an additional 5 spaces with the potential of 7 in total. This allowed us to welcome more vendors, increase market days for our occasional vendors and increase revenue.

Our monthly customer attendance for our 22nd year had gains in July and September. May had a decrease in attendance compared to 2016. This was mainly due to one less market day in 2017. There were small decreases in June, August and October due to bad weather days. Our average daily attendance in May was 860, June 910, July 1458, August 1442, September 921, and October 801.

Finally, we would like to sincerely thank all of our volunteers, vendors, musicians, and community for making our farmers' market happen every Saturday morning. We look forward to continuing to welcome new vendors, new customers and new friends to our market.

Rentals

2017 was another successful year for rentals at the Barn with a total of 32 rentals.

Our rental rate was increased to \$1,500 better reflecting the value of the property and services.

We were lucky that our contracted event team from 2016 returned for our 2017 season and did a fantastic job of ensuring all rentals went successful. A huge thank you to our event team!

Moving forward our goal is to expand the variety of rentals and community usage of our Hubbards Barn & Community Park.

Food Truck Rally

The 2017 Hubbards Barn Food Truck Rally was a success. We continued our partnership with the NS Food Truck Association, whose members were the main attraction. Our Barn was open for seating and music. Thanks to the completion of our new Pavilion we were able to host a beer garden in the back meadow with Saltbox Brewing Co. Through sponsorships, donations at the entrance and sales that night we raised almost \$5,000.

A huge thank you to our sponsors: Hubbards Scotiabank, Aspotogan Heritage Trust, Municipality of the district of Chester, as well as our fantastic volunteers who helped make the event happen, and to John Cole Porter for giving us wonderful music.

Property and Gardens

John Publicover and Farrell Munroe continue to provide on-going maintenance for the Barn and property and, as usual, continue to do a great job.

We are very fortunate to have a dedicated groups of gardening enthusiasts who oversee the numerous beautiful gardens on the property. This past year, we even added a few more gardens. The gardens beside the concrete ramp and the one near the compost pile were planted and tended by *Through the Years Daycare* kids and staff. Our gardening volunteers began a new landscape project behind the Pavilion as well. This work will continue this year.

We received a great deal of very positive feedback about the condition of our gardens this past season ... thanks entirely to the work of our dedicated Gardening volunteers!

The gardening crew meets at the Barn on Thursday mornings (9:30 to noon approx.) throughout the gardening season and work as a team to plan out the work that is done. By all

accounts, it is a very enjoyable and rewarding social event each week for everyone involved. If anyone would like to join the gardening team, please feel free to contact Heather Wood at 902-489-3223 for more information.

Finances

The HBA's finances continue to be strong. We continue to cover our operating costs through revenue generated by rental and market vendor fees (augmented by donations from organizations such as Chester Municipality). We also continue to maintain sufficient cash reserves to cover unexpected costs and on-going capital improvement projects. We were very pleased to become part of the Bay Treasure Chest network of local organizations in 2017. This highly popular fundraising initiative has proven to be a wonderful source of financial support for many local area groups including the HBA. Revenue from our involvement with the Bay Treasure Chest has resulted in a very useful infusion of money to be used for projects around the property. A big *Thank you* to Christine Hall, Ashley Marlin and the volunteers who represent the HBA at the weekly counts.

The Board adheres to a robust monthly financial review process that measures finances against an annual Budget and comparisons to prior years. The annual Financial Statement continues to be reviewed by an independent outside accountant each year. This past year, our financial structure was stream lined and more electronic banking functions were put in place to ensure efficiency, best use of funds etc. Christine Hall (Treasurer) will provide further detail about HBA finances at the Annual General Meeting on March 28, 2018 at the Trellis Café.

Projects Completed in 2017 -2018

The **Lin Cahill Pavilion** was completed and formally dedicated on July 1, 2017 in conjunction with our *Canada Day 150* celebrations. Thank you again to the J. D. Shatford Memorial Trust Fund for their generous contribution to this milestone project. We are pleased to report that this project was completed on time and under budget.

We replaced the old **Wheel Chair Ramp** near the washroom with a safe and durable concrete one. Thanks to Steve Hare for his contribution of the railing for the ramp, this project was completed on time and on budget.

A new outdoor vendor stall was constructed and the roofs on the two existing outside stalls were re-shingled. These projects were also completed on time and under budget.

We put measures in place to **improve parking lot safety and make best use of the limited on-site parking** that we have for our Farmers Markets. We want to thank everyone who served as parking lot assistants during the latter part of our Market season. By all accounts this worked well and we intend to continue using this approach for the upcoming season. We are always

looking for people to help out with this on-going project. If you are interested, please contact John Cahill at 902-857-1667.

We **created a formal policy covering donations of Memorials** such as benches, picnic tables etc. to honour, for example, loved ones who have passed away. Details of this new policy can be found on our website.

The Board began the **creation of a strategic plan or vision for the Barn and Park** to help ensure on-going adherence to the fundamental principles that guide the use of the property and to help make best use of resources on a continuing basis. Jonathan Meakin (Recording Secretary) will make a presentation re. this exercise at the Annual General Meeting as a means of soliciting input from HBA members and other community members.

Projects for 2018 – 2019

This year, we will continue our work on the Strategic Plan that we are developing. We will be replacing /upgrading our trail board walks and generally improving our walking trails. We will also continue to work on enhancements to our parking lot in order to improve, as much as possible, parking and traffic flow within the limited space available. We will also be adding a short gravel path in the meadow to run in front of the additional market vending spaces created last season. Further landscaping work will also be done in the area behind the Pavilion.

Thank You!

The Board of Directors welcomes community members to provide feedback and support to the upkeep, maintenance and use of this wonderful community resource. We are grateful to the many volunteers who spend their time and share their talents and efforts throughout the year. Thank you to all involved for making 2017-2018 another successful year at the Hubbards Barn and Community Park.

Respectfully submitted

The Hubbards Barn Association Board of Directors.