



Annual Report 2018 – 2019

Board of Directors

Brent Dykeman (Chair)

Rebecca Stone (Vice-Chair)

Jonathan Meakin (Recording Secretary)

Christine Hall (Treasurer)

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 event throughout the market season and remains a force within our local economy and among the longest running markets on the South Shore. This year will mark the 24th season for our Market.

In 2018, we welcomed some new unique local vendors to our Market selling items such as beeswax food wraps, rum cakes, whole-grain mustards, luffas etc. Our total vendor roster is now 67.

Our average daily attendance in May was 930, June 989, July 1313, August 1759, September 824 and October 708. Customer attendance grew in May, June, August and September compared to 2017. It was lower in July because there was one less Saturday in July 2018 compared to July 2017. There was a small decrease in October due to poor weather. Our average customer attendance for the Christmas markets was a very strong 1289, thanks in part to very good weather on those days.

Once again, we want to thank all of our volunteers, vendors, musicians, and the members of our community for making our farmers' market such an ongoing success. We want to send out a special thank you to Ashley Marlin for her dedicated efforts to keep our Saturday morning Markets and our

rental events running smoothly. Great Job Ashley! We look forward to continuing to welcome new vendors, new customers and new friends to our market in 2019!

Rentals

2018 was another successful year for rentals at the Barn with a total of 26 rentals. Our contracted event team did a great job of helping our renters have an enjoyable experience. We increased our promotion of the Barn by attending the Atlantic Wedding Showcase in October and developing a rental brochure. The rental rate is \$1,500 which is commensurate with the venue's value and comparable with other rental locations of similar nature. We have 20 confirmed rentals booked for 2019, so far, and 7 for 2020. We continue to seek opportunities to increase and diversify the usage of the Barn and the park by our community.

Food Truck Rally

The 2018 Hubbards Barn Food Truck Rally was a success. We continued our partnership with the NS Food Truck Association, whose members were the main attraction. As usual, our Barn was open for seating and music and we once again hosted a beer garden in the meadow. Through sponsorships, donations at the entrance and sales that night we ended up with almost \$ 1,900, after paying expenses. This amount was lower than in previous years because Scotiabank decided that it would no longer sponsor our event.

A huge thank you to our sponsors: Aspotogan Heritage Trust, Municipality of the district of Chester, as well as our fantastic volunteers who helped make the event happen.

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.

Our dedicated group of gardening enthusiasts continue to oversee the beautiful gardens on the property. We always receive very positive feedback about the condition of our gardens. Thanks entirely to the work of our committed 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 come on out.

Finances

The HBA's finances continue to be strong. We are able to cover operating costs through revenue generated by rental and market vendor fees (augmented by donations from organizations such as Chester Municipality). We also 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 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 provided us

with money to be used for many projects around the property. A big *Thank you* to Christine Hall, Ashley Marlin and the volunteers who represent the HBA at the weekly counts. If you would like to volunteer to assist with the Bay Treasure Chest counting process, please contact Ashley Marlin.

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 examined / prepared by an independent outside accounting professional each year. Christine Hall (Treasurer) will provide further detail about HBA finances at the Annual General Meeting on March 27, 2019 at the Trellis Café.

Projects Completed in 2018 -2019

We completed a number of **trail improvements** in the spring of 2018. These enhancements resulted in safer and much more user-friendly walking surfaces for those who use our trail system throughout the year.

We installed **parking curbs** in the parking lot to better identify parking spaces and encourage people to pull their vehicles as far forward in the space as possible. Limited on-site parking continues, however, to be a significant challenge on Saturday mornings during peak Market months (see Projects for 2019-2020 below)

The Board completed the work on its **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. The Board views the plan to be a “living document” that will be regularly amended to reflect new directions etc. as time goes on.

We moved the **Children’s sandbox / play area** and created a safer and more user-friendly play area behind the permanent outdoor vendor stalls. By all indications, this enhancement to our facilities proved to be very popular with kids and parents alike.

We **repaired all of the benches** around the property by replacing broken or worn slats and we added a number of **new picnic tables**.

We **resurfaced the floor in the Washrooms**. The new surface is much more “maintenance free”, safer and attractive.

We upgraded the **Emergency Lighting** in the Barn and Washrooms.

We installed a **Rain Barrel** to make plant watering duties easier for our Gardening volunteers.

We **replaced a number of the tables** that are used by renters and vendors within the Barn.

It must be noted that these projects were financed using proceeds from our involvement with the Bay Treasure Chest. Again, we want to extend a big “Thank you” to this wonderful community organization!

Projects for 2019 – 2020

A priority project for the upcoming Market Season is to facilitate a comprehensive **review of parking requirements and resources** during the peak market months. The Board is working with Kathy Gamache, Executive Director of the Aspotogan Heritage Trust, to obtain input from community stakeholders regarding our Market parking challenges. Our goal is to work along with community stakeholders to develop a parking strategy that makes best use of available resources while, at the same time, avoiding undue inconvenience for local businesses, residents etc.

The Board is considering an enhancement to our new sandbox / play area by constructing a **sunshade / shelter**. Doing so will promote use and accessibility for this well-liked park feature. In addition, we will be adding some gravel to this newly constructed area in 2019 in order to level out areas where settling has occurred since installation. This will help to prevent rain from “puddling” within the play area used by the children.

In 2019, the Board would also like to have another **permanent outdoor vendor** stall constructed. We find that the permanent vendor stalls enhance the Market experience for vendors and Market patrons alike.

The Hubbard’s Barn and Community Park does not, at present, have a **source of potable water** on site. All potable water requirements are currently met by using bottled water that is transported on site. This causes inconvenience for people who rent the Barn for various events as well as for the Farmer’s Market vendors who require potable water for their products. The HBA would like to look at ways to address this need in 2019 by investigating solutions such as the use of an on-site potable water cistern. Having a potable water source on site will enhance the usability of our facilities for all users.

In 2019, the HBA will be addressing accessibility challenges that are presently posed at various entry points to the Hubbard’s Barn. Some **doorways** require levelling in order to eliminate tripping hazards and to improve accessibility for anyone with limited mobility. In addition, some of the doors on the Barn will be replaced with more structurally-sound doors which will be easier to open and shut. Again, this will improve usage and accessibility for everyone.

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 2018-2019 another successful year at the Hubbards Barn and Community Park.

Respectfully submitted

The Hubbards Barn Association Board of Directors.