



**Hubbards Barn Association**

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**W:** [hubbardsbarn.org](http://hubbardsbarn.org)

## **2021 - 2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

### **Annual General Meeting – March 29, 2022**

#### **Mission Statement**

*The Hubbards Barn Association preserves the cultural and natural heritage of the Hubbards Barn and Community Park, facilitates community activities and events on the property, and provides organizational continuity through the sound management of our resources.*

#### **1. Governance & Operations**

In addition to our core programming, the Hubbards Barn Association (HBA) made progress during the 2021-2022 governance year (April 1 to March 31) on a number of organizational objectives and goals, as outlined below.

##### **1.1 Communications & Marketing**

The HBA continues to develop a communications strategy that establishes a consistent approach to promoting an HBA 'brand' and HBA initiatives, news, programs, and community services through digital and print channels, in-kind promotion with community partners, and relevant networks in the culture, heritage, recreation, and tourism sectors.

Actions taken during 2021-2022 include:

- The Hubbards Barn Association marked an important milestone in 2021. The Farmers' Market celebrated 25 years of continuous operation in Hubbards, with the last 20 of those years operating from the Hubbards Barn. Volunteer Rebecca Wilson created a special anniversary edition of the HBA logo, which we used all year long.
- Rebecca Wilson also created a Hubbards Barn-themed Colouring and Activity Book, which was printed and sold during the Christmas at the Barn events. 100 books were printed and approximately 1/3 were sold. The \$500 raised to date from the sale of these books will be used for property beautification of the Barn gardens and trails. The remaining books will be made available for sale during the upcoming Market season.

##### **1.2 Property Maintenance Plan**

The HBA is responsible for the long-term property maintenance for the Hubbards Barn and Community Park. Regular maintenance of the property was conducted by HBA Director

Tyler Haut and Property Caretaker James Sims. 2021 continued to see the impact of COVID-19 on our usual revenue streams, and as such some projects, such as rebuilding the trail that was damaged during Hurricane Dorian in 2019 remained on hold. Despite decreased revenue, ongoing maintenance of the property continued, with consideration of environmental sustainability, accessibility and preserving the natural heritage and history of the site.

Actions taken during 2021-22 include:

- **Renovation of garbage shed:** Reversing an original decision to replace the garbage shed, the HBA decided to make repairs to parts of the building. The siding was removed from both sides of the shed, cutting away all rotten sheathing, replacing it, and installing new pine siding. The front doors were also replaced and the shed exterior was painted 'barn' red.
- **Barn exterior repairs and replacement of sliding door hardware:** Dan Ouelette was contracted to repair and replace multiple doors to the main barn. The hardware for two of the sliding doors was replaced and the other slider was repaired. Two of the large swinging doors were repaired and new interior barricades were installed.
- **Tree maintenance:** Continued trail maintenance included clearing of debris from fallen trees and taking down dangerous dead wood. Shrubs were thinned and overgrown shrubs and branches encroaching on usable spaces were removed.
- **Trail repair and minor excavations:** In 2021-2022 the property saw several storms that brought lots of rainfall. As a result, rainfall wiped out more of the property's trail system, where the waterways intersect. Johnny Boulay was hired to dig out areas of the trail and place gravel around trails to repair damage, washout and restore use. We are hopeful to implement a more permanent solution in 2022 with a larger construction and replacement of the old boardwalk that was swept away by Hurricane Dorian in 2019.
- **Increased security checks:** In 2021-2022 there was evidence of mischief and vandalism. To help prevent further damage, James Sims visited the property more frequently during the 2021 market season. Some of the acts of mischief resulted in picnic tables being placed on the roof of vendor stall, movement and stacking of picnic tables (approx. 10 in one instance). The community events sign was routinely tampered with, and graffiti was found around the property and on the walls of the washroom. There were also signs of forced entry into the barn itself.

### 1.3 Volunteers

Volunteers are the backbone of the HBA! From behind-the-scenes operations of the Board of Directors to the on-the-ground (and in-the-ground) work of the Farmers' Market helpers and gardening group, volunteers make the Hubbards Barn a welcoming, warm, and beautiful community space.

For our 2021 Farmers' Market season, we had over 10 committed volunteers who, despite the uncertain and changing public health landscape, safely helped the Market run

smoothly. Our volunteers wore many hats this Market season and adapted as protocols changed – they greeted market-goers each Saturday at the entrance table, offering hand-sanitizer and sharing information; they helped maintain social distancing; and helped direct foot traffic inside the barn. We thank our incredible volunteers for their time and service this season – we couldn't do it without you!

Another volunteer-led group who contributes to the beauty and maintenance of the Hubbards Barn and grounds is the Gardening group. This dedicated group of eight community members came together regularly throughout the spring, summer and fall months to share in their delight of gardening and worked hard to maintain the stunning landscape of the Barn and Community Park. The Gardeners were busy even before the 2021 Market season began, preparing for opening day. Throughout the season, they continued to maintain and transform the gardens, footpaths, and greenspace, keeping the Barn an inviting place to be.

Thank you to Heather, Judy, Gary, Sharon, Glenda, Cathy, Lillis and Laura for your amazing work and another season of beauty!

## **2. Annual Programming**

This past year was another year to remember. The HBA would like to thank all of our volunteers, vendors, local businesses, and broader community for helping to make our modified market season possible.

The HBA acknowledges and thanks our Bookkeeper Jacqueline Leppard for managing demanding financial operations of the HBA. This includes funding we receive through our partnership with the Bay Treasure Chest Association, and managing the myriad financial transactions generated by our annual programming.

The HBA also offers special thanks to Ashley Marlin, our Operations Coordinator, Hubbards Farmers' Market and Events, for the tremendous effort she made to ensure our unusual season ran smoothly within the difficult confines of unprecedented health & safety protocols.

### **2.1 Hubbards Farmers' Market**

This past year was also another year of adaptation for our Hubbards Farmers' Market. Thankfully, opening day was delayed only until May 22, 2021, due to COVID-19 numbers and restrictions. This decision to delay was made by our HBA Board with input from our farmers' market vendors. With guidance from Farmers' Markets of Nova Scotia and following all provincial restrictions, we were able to have our 2021 season.

We maintained the additional outside pedestrian space, as well as one-way traffic and a reduced the number of vendors inside the barn. Once restrictions allowed, the one-way traffic rule inside the barn was lifted.

We excitedly welcomed a new coffee vendor, Drift Coffee Truck. Unfortunately, long-time vendor Rumptof Farm was not able to return to the market this year following the impact of spring storms on crops.

Without a typical tourist season, our customer numbers were reduced, averaging approximately 600 visitors per market. Our Hubbards Barn Food Truck Rally was postponed for the second year in a row. Provincial restriction easing did allow us to bring back our Christmas at the Barn Markets. We had three successful markets on November 27, December 4, and December 11, with new hours of 9 am to 1 pm.

The Hubbards Farmers' Market participated the Nourishing Communities Food Coupon Program, an initiative of the Farmers' Markets of Nova Scotia. This program helps address food insecurity in communities by providing "food bucks" to eligible households.

We would like to sincerely thank all our volunteers, vendors, Board of Directors, and local shoppers for making the 2021 season of our Hubbards Farmers' Market a great success.

## **2.2 Hubbards Barn & Community Park Rentals**

Due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic in 2021, rentals of our Hubbards Barn had to adjust again. Our renters were given the option to move their dates, at no penalty. Some took advantage of this, once again, moving their dates to 2022. Some crossed their fingers. Following provincial restrictions, we were able to accommodate seven weddings.

All hands were on deck to make these weddings a success. Some new event staff was hired, with members of our board and our Operations Coordinator filling in when necessary. All brides, grooms, and families were extremely happy.

Our main goal is still to increase the variety of rentals and use of the Barn by our Hubbards and surrounding communities. We met this goal in 2021 by welcoming the CBC production of Moonshine, who used the Barn and property as a filming location in August and September. We also hosted a film fundraiser for Starfish Reunites, and all funds raised went towards reuniting a local Syrian family.

We continue to promote future rentals of the Barn, mainly through our website and social media.

## **3. Notes on 2022-2023 Governance Year**

The COVID-19 pandemic and provincial State of Emergency had a significant impact on the past governance year. Beginning in February 2022 public health restrictions began to ease, and the provincial State of Emergency ended on March 21st. The HBA is planning for the upcoming year to more closely resemble programming prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the HBA is prepared to respond to changes in programming if public health restrictions resume, leveraging our experience from the past two years. We will continue to monitor the situation as year progresses.

### **3.1 Hubbards Food Truck Rally**

A Food Truck Rally is planned for June 25<sup>th</sup>, dependent on current Public Health Restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **3.2 Hubbards Farmers' Market**

On March 21, 2022, public health restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic came to an end. At this time, the HBA anticipates that the 2022 Hubbards Farmers' Market season will go ahead as scheduled, beginning as usual on Mother's Day weekend. A well-loved presence at the Hubbards Farmers' Market for the past 20 years, Julien's Bakery will not be returning this season. After being in the business for over 30 years, Julien's Bakery will close permanently at the end of March. We will miss seeing Laura and the long line-ups for her delicious products at each market, and we thank her and Didier for their fine work and support over the years.

### **3.3 Hubbards Barn & Community Park Rentals**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions in 2021, the HBA once again saw a reduced number of event rentals and increased cancellations. With the easing of public health restrictions, there is an increase in the number of events scheduled for the upcoming season. Currently 23 weddings/events are confirmed for 2022.

### **3.4 Property Maintenance Plan**

In the upcoming year, the HBA plans to continue ongoing maintenance and improvement to the Hubbards Barn and Community Park property. Dependent on the approval of grant applications submitted in the fall of 2021 and winter of 2022, some of the projects include painting the exterior of the Barn, and a major project to repair and revitalize the main trail that was destroyed in 2019. The Hubbards Barn street sign at the entrance from Highway 3 is getting a facelift. Volunteer Eric Wood has designed new artwork for the middle panel, with elements from the updated HBA logo. The letter-board portion of the sign will have locking plexiglass panels to protect the messaging. The installation of these new sign elements has been approved and work will be completed before the start of the 2022 Market season.

## **A Message from The HBA Chair**

Another year has passed, and we are looking forward to Spring just around the corner. I find winter is a time to slow down and reflect on the past year as well as the hopeful year ahead.

When I look at the past year we all experienced together, I cannot help but be grateful. At the Hubbards Barn we experienced weddings again! Weddings bring a real feeling of joy and promise as well as a familiar feeling of the lives we knew a mere two years ago.

We were fortunate to have a wonderful full market season, which included our Christmas Markets! Although the Saturday markets were still modified, they were fruitful in so many ways. Farmers Markets are not only a place to buy your lettuce and chicken- they are community gathering spots, local economy hubs, entrepreneurship launching pads, and a safe space to be outdoors and let kids run around. It's a four-hour window where we can see friends, support local business and create community ties.

Thank you to our vendors for putting their faith and support in the Board of Directors and our community, to lift up their livelihoods. It is an honour to promote and host you all.

We want to thank the volunteers that are in front and behind the scenes making our events and Markets run: our maintenance crew, gardening club, bookkeeper, weekend greeters, volunteer coordinator, our Board of Directors and of course Ashley Marlin. It really takes a village!

And to you, our community...thank you! Thanks for continuing to support our markets, our vendors, using the outdoor space all year round, and your kind words of support.

There is a feeling of renewal upon us. Let us together lift one another up, whether it's with a morning croissant, a warm hello at the entrance, a thank you for the beautiful flowers or an extra long play in the sand box. We are a community, and we cannot wait to see you all soon!

~ Amber MacLean, HBA Chair

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Report submitted on behalf of the:

### **2020-21 Hubbards Barn Association Board of Directors:**

Amber MacLean (Chair)  
Jenn Dixon / Jocelyn Harrison (Vice-Chair)  
Marsha Wilson (Secretary)  
Laura Keeler  
Tyler Haut  
Emily King  
Roxy Hurlily

### **Other Key Team Members:**

Ashley Marlin (Operations Coordinator, Hubbards Farmers' Market and Events)  
Jaqueline Leppard (Bookkeeper)  
James Sims (Property Maintenance)