



Hubbards Barn Association

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2022 - 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Annual General Meeting – March 29, 2023

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 2022-2023 governance year (April 1 to March 31) on several organizational objectives and goals, as outlined below.

1.1 Communications & Marketing

The HBA promotes events, initiatives, news, and community information through its online forums (website and social media), promotion with community partners, and relevant networks in the culture, heritage, recreation, and tourism sectors.

This past year a new sign to the Hubbards Barn and Community Park was installed, displaying the revised logo, created the year prior. The letter-board portion of the sign also got a plexiglass cover that has been great for ensuring the messages are not tampered with – either by the weather or hands.

In the upcoming season, we plan to re-instate an HBA newsletter, sharing news, events, vendor profiles, and volunteer recognition. The newsletter will be distributed to members and posted on our website/social media monthly during the market season, and quarterly the remainder of the year.

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 overseen by Board Officer, Tyler Haut, and James Sims, who provide property maintenance throughout the year.

Actions taken during 2022-23 included:

- **Trail project:** The most significant project this past season has been the redevelopment of the pedestrian trail damaged during Hurricane Dorian in 2019. Most of the project was completed in October 2022, and it has been wonderful to see our community walking and rolling with ease to the Barn! The trail project not only resulted in a safe and accessible route to the market, but also allowed for more definition in our parking areas, improved accessible parking, and new signage. In peak season, our limited parking can create challenges, and we invite all patrons who are able to consider parking in the overflow area at the Aspotogan Heritage Trust.

With the support of community partners, the Aspotogan Heritage Trust and the Hubbards Streetscape Project, the HBA was successful in receiving grant funding from the Municipality of the District of Chester and the Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage to develop a new, accessible trail, as well as make much needed improvements to the parking lot. The project was a community-led initiative which included time and effort from many on the HBA Board and throughout the Hubbards and Area community. We would like to thank Board Members Jenn Dixon, Tyler Haut, Gary Bristow, and our Bookkeeper, Jackie Leppard, for their amazing work turning plans into reality. We thank local businesses, Propour Concrete and Moving Your Earth Construction for bringing the vision to life!

- **Painting the exterior of the Barn:** With the support of grant funding provided by the Aspotogan Heritage Trust, all exterior surfaces and trim of the Barn were fully scraped and repainted.
- **New vendor stalls:** The HBA began work replacing existing vendor stalls that were showing signs of wear. Two stalls were installed by contractor John Murphy. Replacement of the stalls will continue over the course of the next year.
- **New roof on the back of the barn:** Coming in just under the wire, the leaking section of roof on the back of the barn is being replaced and should be done before the AGM in March 2023! Due to the low slope of the room, we have replaced the metal section with a flat torch-on roof.
- **Other maintenance:** Additional maintenance included cleaning up from treefall, pruning and maintenance of the trails on the property, repair from storm damage, tying the new trail/sidewalk to existing trails, and troubleshooting roof leaks.

1.2 Volunteers

The Hubbards Barn Association would like to thank all the volunteers who continue to help grow the Hubbards Barn and Community Park into a beautiful and accessible community space. For the first time in a few years, the Farmers' Market operated without major restrictions, with the hopes of a safe and successful Market season. As such, volunteers helped out in different ways than past years. The gardening group continued to take care of the gardens and grounds of the Hubbards Barn and Community Park, maintaining and transforming the landscape before and throughout the Market season. Meeting once a week during the Spring and Summer months, the gardening group:

- transplanted hydrangeas and other plants from the entrance garden to other spots to make way for the new sidewalk;
- added new shrubs to the butterfly garden, mulching the area and trimming the pine trees that were encroaching this garden;
- transplanted roses, dividing hostas, and moving plants that have become overgrown;
- maintained all 5 garden locations by weeding, removing invasive plants, mulching beds, pruning roses and other shrubs, and watering plants when needed; and
- removed gravel plowed onto grass and garden beds and tidying the path to the pavilion.

Thank you, Heather, Judy, Gary, Sharon, Glenda, Cathy, and Lillis for all the work you do!

We would also like to thank the volunteers who helped sell merchandise, sign up new members, and raise awareness about the HBA at first Christmas Market.

Thank you, wonderful volunteers! The Barn would not be what is it today without your time and dedication!

2. Annual Programming

2.1 Hubbards Farmers' Market

2022 was the year that our Hubbards Farmers' Market was able to return to its full potential and capacity. Our market was able to open on time over Mother's Day weekend and welcome our full roster of vendors. Customers were able to freely enjoy our market without restrictions. We saw a return of tourists and seasonal residents, bringing our customer numbers close to

pre-pandemic levels.

Thanks to its popularity, the additional outside pedestrian space was maintained with parking barriers, also creating much needed on-site parking for vendors.

Sadly, we said goodbye to a long-time vendor, Julien's Bakery, who retired from their business in 2022, as well as Middlefield Farm. We were able to welcome a large group of new vendors as well, including: local Hubbards business The Savary Plate, Halifax Greens, Little Darlings Bakery, Water Dragon Pottery, Yuppie Puppy Café, Full Strong Coffee, Sterling Coast Designs, Misc Wail Wear, 242 Bahama Mama Delicacies, Timberwolf, Nature's Pet, Hawkin's Pottery, and the Art of Slow Food.

Our Christmas at the Barn markets also enjoyed great success with large amounts of customers and happy vendors.

Overall, the 2022 season of our Hubbards Farmers' Market and Christmas Markets saw growth and continued sustainability. We would like to sincerely thank all of our volunteers, vendors, board of directors, and local shoppers for making our 2022 season a success.

2.2 Hubbards Barn & Community Park Rentals

With the dropping of COVID-19 restrictions our Hubbards Barn had a full season of rentals. The Barn had a total of 25 rentals for the 2022 season. We were excited to welcome the Forest Heights Prom and the Peggy's Cove Area Festival of the Arts opening night for the first time. It was great seeing the Hubbards Sailing Club annual fundraiser return this year. The remaining rentals were made up of new weddings and those that were rescheduled from 2021.

We had a fantastic team of event staff that ensured every rental was a success. Our main goal is to still increase the variety of rentals and use of the Barn by our Hubbards and surrounding communities. The prom, arts festival opening night, and annual fundraiser help us build towards this ongoing goal. We continue to promote future rentals of the barn through our website and social media.

3. Notes on 2023-2024 Governance Year

3.1 Hubbards Food Truck Rally

Food truck rallies are exciting community events that bring together community, food, and socializing. In the past the HBA has hosted food truck rallies with great success, and we hope to bring back this tradition this year. Planning for a food truck rally for early July is underway, with ideas being explored of a second event to end off our market season.

3.2 Hubbards Farmers' Market

May 13th will be the start of our 2023 Farmers' Market Season! With the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions last year, we are expecting a busy season and a packed market every Saturday morning. We hope a return to a regular market season will result in an increase in the number of growers and food producers. Haley Thomas, our new Market Manager, has already started work recruiting new vendors, including bakers, coffee purveyors, and fruit, vegetable and meat producers. Our 2023 market season will see a return of many familiar vendors, as well as some new ones, including Amina's Syrian Kitchen and Lunenburg Pop-Up Bakery, to name just a few.

The market will continue participating in the Nourishing Communities Program through Farmers' Markets Nova Scotia. This valuable program helps to address food insecurity in the Hubbards area.

3.3 Hubbards Barn & Community Park Rentals

After a full season of event rentals, that was more reminiscent of the years prior to COVID-19, we are planning for another season filled with weddings, festivals and community events. Going into the upcoming season, we have 21 confirmed event rentals, including the Peggy's Cove Area Festival and the Hubbards Sailing Club Annual Fundraiser. To prepare the grounds for a busy season, the HBA will be hosting a community gardening event this Spring, enlisting volunteer help with landscaping projects and to encourage community involvement.

One of the goals of the HBA is to increase the variety of rentals and use of the Barn and Community Park. We are exploring the use of the Barn and property in the colder shoulder months of the season, and hosting events on Fridays, a day that has traditionally not been available for events due to the Farmers' Market the following morning. With a new Events Manager and Farmers' Market Manager in place, who live nearby, our options and availability have expanded.

By reaching out to community organizations, such as the Chester Recreation Department and the Hubbards branch of the Halifax Public Libraries, we are hoping to attract new renters and new types of events. Community input will be solicited to target the needs and preferences of residents, to increase awareness of the Barn as an event space and community resource.

We strongly believe in supporting local. We will be inviting local service providers to submit a listing for our directory to promote local businesses and improve resources available to renters. A priority this season will be to strengthen and enhance the client experience and improve customer service by augmenting the level of service provided during events, creating continuity during events, and a consistent standard of service, through staff training, scheduling and capturing customer feedback.

3.4 Property Maintenance Plan

Property maintenance plans for the upcoming season include:

- Completion of landscaping bordering the new trail, including planting new trees, shrubs and flowers.

- Creating a 'traffic circle' where the existing grass berm is located, to improve traffic flow during weekend markets.
- Installing a kiosk at the traffic circle to display parking information and a message board. The kiosk will match the style of the new vendor stalls.
- Continue replacing existing vendor stalls that are showing wear.

4. A Message from The HBA Chair

As we look back on the 2022-2023 season, the Hubbards Barn and Community Park has much to celebrate. I want to start by thanking the incredible volunteers, vendors, and patrons who kept the Barn humming through the pandemic, and who returned in full force to help rebuild after a difficult period. It truly highlighted how lucky we are to have so much support for this hub of community and economic development in our area.

I am proud to report to our membership on a couple of important projects accomplished by the Board and volunteers this year.

The first, and most visible, was rebuilding the pedestrian access trail from Highway 3 to the Barn. After the original trail was destroyed by flooding several years ago, the HBA has been working toward designing and funding a permanent, accessible trail to improve safe access for all to the Barn. Our goal is to make it easy and safe to walk to the Barn, and we really appreciate your efforts to ease the congestion in our limited driveway.

Another (bittersweet) change was the departure of the Barn's long-serving Market Manager, Ashley Marlin. Many thanks to Ashley for her incredible dedication to the market for 14 years, and we wish her ever success in her new role at Craft NS.

Reflecting on the evolution of our operations, the HBA Board created a new Events Manager role in addition to the Market Manager to allow for further growth and more tailored programming. We are delighted to welcome Haley Thomas (Farmers' Market Manager) and Keri Harrison (Events Manager) to the team and invite our membership to connect with them if you have any questions about the market and events programming for the coming year.

Many other changes and improvements are highlighted in the report, so I will close with a reminder: if you love the Hubbards Barn and Community Park, there are so many ways to show it! First, support your vendors and shop local - your dollars stay in our community and build a resilient economy. Second, help us look after our park by keeping it clean and beautiful. Third, please stay in touch and volunteer - we have lots of opportunities to help out on special events or throughout the year. Thanks to all our wonderful supporters, and we look forward to seeing everyone again later in the spring.

~Emily

Report submitted on behalf of the:

2022-23 Hubbards Barn Association Board of Directors:

Emily King (Chair)

Jenn Dixon (Vice-Chair)

Laura Keeler (Secretary)

Tyler Haut (Treasurer)

Gary Bristow

Terilee Bulger

Roxy Herlihy

Dana Kayal

Rivkah Sherman

Other Key Team Members:

Ashley Marlin (Operations Coordinator, Hubbards Farmers' Market and Events (ending January 2023))

Haley Thomas (Farmers' Market Manager (January 2023 onwards))

Keri Harrison (Events Manager (January 2023 onwards))

Jackie Leppard (Bookkeeper)

James Sims (Property Maintenance)