



STRATFORD PERTH HERITAGE FOUNDATION

CARING FOR OUR PAST

Dear Friends of the Stratford Perth Heritage Foundation:

The SPHF Board has had another eventful year in 2016. Anyone who has passed by the Fryfogel Tavern within the past few years has surely been able to see the property continually improve, along with the gardens blossoming.

In January of 2016 the Tavern Renewal Committee, with the leadership of SPHF Board Member and local contractor Jerry Walsh, took on the task of rehabilitating one of the rooms on the upper floor of the Tavern. This renewal project breathed new life into the former "Ballroom," which allowed us to have local photographer John Jones exhibit some of his photos of the Tavern and Arboretum throughout the summer.

The Pioneer Day Programme was held over a four day period June 20th -23rd, with eighty students from local public schools attending. The children, teachers and adult supervisors arrived on site each day to learn about what pioneer life in Perth County would have been like, and to gain an appreciation of the history.

Open houses continued sporadically throughout the season, including our annual May Day spring celebration, the 2nd annual Ancestors Picnic. We also continued our involvement in Culture Days, with the help of the Slow Food Kids preparing griddle cakes, a workshop presented by Dawna Robertson of the Stratford Art Gallery, along with a couple of buskers performing in the Parlour, the event was a big success. If you are ever driving by and see the big red "Tavern Open" flags that were kindly donated to us by Barbara Hacking, please feel free to stop in and visit!

The Arboretum has continued to improve with the addition of several trees being donated and planted. It was a great summer followed by beautiful fall weather. We are appreciative to all of the Volunteers who take care of the Arboretum, which truly is a fantastic addition to the property.

One of the highlights of the year was the 225th Anniversary Celebration of Sebastian Fryfogel's birth, which took place on Saturday, August 6th, 2016. More than 200 guests and dignitaries, including our special guest Swiss Ambassador Dr. Beat Nobs, celebrated the occasion with speeches, music, tours and even cake. It was an important day that focused on the Swiss heritage of the property, which was accompanied by musical selections by the Thames Valley Swiss Club, including both countries' national anthems, and a performance by an alpenhorn musician.

We are hoping to have the Tavern open more frequently, along with other events, throughout the 2017 season. Of course, this would not be possible without the continued hard work and dedication of our Volunteers. If you, or someone you know, may be interested in volunteering with the SPHF this coming year, please do not hesitate to contact us via e-mail at stratfordperthheritage@gmail.com, we are always looking for more help and new ideas.

The SPHF would also like to ask for your continued support by renewing your membership for 2017. You may also direct gifts to one or more of our ongoing programs, as listed on the membership form. The Stratford Perth Heritage Foundation is a registered charity (BN 89075 0045 RR001). Gifts of \$25 or more received before year end will be sent either a 2016 or 2017 tax receipt. We greatly appreciate your continued support!

On behalf of the Stratford Perth Heritage Foundation, I would like to wish you and your family a happy holiday season, and a successful New Year in 2017.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry Nowack".

Barry Nowack Jr., Chair
Stratford Perth Heritage Foundation