

HORTICULTURALIST (Garden Interpreter), 2018

The gardens of the Cole Harbour Heritage Farm Museum are a core attraction for visitors from near and far. Community members visit to ask questions and gather advice to support their own gardening efforts. Garden tourists visit in ever increasing numbers as the trend in garden tourism grows. The garden is a focal point of the Museum's interpretation, connecting visitors directly to the farming heritage of the area and stories of old Cole Harbour. And it brings the sights, sounds, smells and tastes of the garden to all who pass through. In 2017, the Farm Museum was chosen as a "Canada 150 Garden Experience Winner", one of 150 gardens selected from across the country. The Horticulturalist is a central resource for all things garden and through this position has the opportunity to develop broad and holistic gardening skills while making a meaningful impact on the 2018 season.

Reporting to the Museum Director, duties of the Horticulturalist (Garden Interpreter) shall include:

- develop an appreciation for the role the garden plays in the everyday operation of the museum from its interpretation of the community's agricultural past to its value in promoting healthier lifestyles and use of local produce to today's urban visitors
- collaborate with interpretive staff and tearoom staff to make the garden responsive to their needs, i.e., making staff aware of areas specially suited to introducing children to nature and assisting in developing plant-related and food-related program ideas
- record and coordinate the activities of garden volunteers and oversee the master plan for the gardening year
- perform routine tasks (with the guidance of museum staff and gardening volunteers) to keep the garden thriving and productive including planting, weeding, watering, staking, dead-heading and harvesting
- learn the names of as many species as possible and which are of special significance to the area's gardening history
- conduct garden tours for school and other groups
- track and record highlights of the 2017 garden season; successful plantings, challenges, etc.
- develop awareness of and care for the museums resources including its buildings, collections, gardens and animals
- share knowledge with visitors, respond to enquiries & contribute to the overall success of the season

Desired qualifications/skills include:

- enrolled in or graduate of a horticultural, agricultural, science, or food and nutrition degree or certificate program and/or demonstrated interest in horticulture
- a genuine interest in gardens and their importance in society through the ages
- excellent customer service and oral communications skills – the horticulturalist probably receives more queries than any other interpreter
- ability to work well with others – the garden is a highly collaborative effort though there is plenty of possibility for individual ideas
- ability to work with children/experience with children's programming – children are a core audience
- planning and organizational skills