

Volunteer Opportunities



Year-Round Opportunities

Special Events

Our long established special events are now our signature in the community and tremendously popular (albeit weather influenced).

On the day, we can use help with tent set up, chair assembly, engaging visitors, and the running of food and dishes to and from the Tearoom. Event days are always fun and a great ambience always ensues.

Programming

Visits to the Farm itself are generally staff managed but we would like to expand our ability to visit classrooms, etc. throughout the winter months. Off-season, we offer programs to the community (food skills, crafting, gardening, and more). For these programs, a support volunteer may be required, i.e. registration, taking attendance, providing coffee and/or tea. Do you have a skill you would like to share with the community? Our Programming Manager can work with you to facilitate or develop a program offering suited to each other's needs.

Crafting and Craft Demonstrations

Do you rug hook, spin, knit, do needlework? Are you willing to demonstrate traditional crafts? The Giles House kitchen provides a perfect spot.

Vehicle/Transportation

Many animal supplies can be obtained more economically by travelling outside the city to get them. We can cut out costs almost by half if a willing volunteer will make the drive to get them for us.

Occasionally, we can use help moving or collecting artifacts. If you have a spacious vehicle we could use your assistance.

In-Season Opportunities

Giles House Attendant

The Giles House is the museum's central exhibit space. It is interpreted, in part, as a living history space with the majority of artifacts dating from the late 19th to mid 20th century. It is the most visited exhibit area of the Museum and benefits greatly from a human presence to provide both information and security. The Giles House Attendant role could also incorporate interpretive activities, light research projects or craft demonstrations – it is up to you!

Gardening

The work is never done in the garden and there is always room for more volunteers. Whether your interest lies in vegetables, flowers, herbs, soil and compost, we have it all. We are busy in the garden starting in April and begin to put the garden “to bed” in November. The museum can provide incredible learning opportunities to novice gardeners as well - you do not need experience as our core garden team possess a wealth of horticultural knowledge and are happy to share it.

General Maintenance

If you happen to be handy with a hammer or a screwdriver, there are always small maintenance jobs to be done on the farm. Additionally, our grounds and buildings are in need of maintaining, particularly in the Spring and Fall, when students are not on staff. We have two decent mowers, a whipper-snipper, and a lot of grass.

Off-Season Opportunities

Auction/Fundraising

The spring dinner and auction is our largest fundraiser and something the Society has come to depend upon. Support is always needed, especially in the gathering of quality auction items. Extra hands to visit, for example, downtown restaurants, would be a huge help. The auction committee begins activities in November of each year. Additional fundraising activities take place throughout the year and could grow further with more volunteer support.

Cleaning of Artifacts

Many of our agricultural artifacts require cleaning and oiling in order to preserve them; tasks the Collections Manager is pressed to find time for. This is a task that could be quietly performed in our woodshop, or even outside on a sunny day.

Research

The more we can research and document our archival collection, the greater resource we become. In some cases, arrangements may be made with the Collections Manager to work from home, on a limited basis.

Cataloguing

Over the last 40 years each artefact that has come into the museum has been catalogued in some way, so that we have a record. New artifacts must be catalogued as well, and if you have an interest in museums and how we run behind the scenes, this is a great opportunity to make a difference and learn some of the more technical aspects of running a Museum.

Digitizing

Scanning documents/photographs, taking pictures of artefacts, and getting all the information onto the computer is the key theme for this opportunity. This is a big job, but something that you could do easily if you have a very limited amount of time you're able to commit.

Time commitments vary for each role, but many a worthwhile contribution can be made in just one afternoon. If something has caught your interest please visit our website and download and complete the Volunteer Application Form and return it to us by mail, email or in person. Alternatively, or if you would like more information, please drop by the Farm and chat with our Executive Director, Janice; our Environment & Programming Manager, Emma; or our Collections Manager, Heather.