

Horticulturalist (Summer Position) 2021

Cole Harbour Heritage Farm Museum, Cole Harbour, Nova Scotia

The Museum

The Cole Harbour Heritage Farm Museum is an original Cole Harbour farm, cultivated continuously for over 200 years. It has operated as a community museum since 1978 and is owned and operated by the Cole Harbour Rural Heritage Society (CHRHS). The museum site is a rural oasis tucked into the middle of a now bustling urban centre. The main museum site consists of 12 buildings. Of those, two are historic houses, six are historic barns and outbuildings and the remainder are museum support structures. This "open air" museum also includes gardens, pastureland, pathways and a small wetland and natural reserve. In addition to the heritage buildings, the museum collection consists of approximately 4000 artifacts representing the evolution of agriculture in the area, along with the implements and personal items of the peoples who made Cole Harbour home. A small representation of traditional farm animals is kept on site along with heritage gardens and native species of trees and shrubs, creating our living collection. The site contains a busy tearoom and gift shop within the original farmhouse, a working blacksmith shop and is a cultural and social hub for the community of Cole Harbour. The Museum operates on a free will donation basis, welcoming over 20,000 visitors per year.

The Position

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.

Reporting to the Museum Director, duties 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;
- Collaborate with interpretive 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 the development of plant-related and food-related program ideas;
- Develop a sensory garden incorporating the Farm Museum's raised permaculture bed for usage by children and/or seniors;
- 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;

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- Learn the names of as many species as possible and which are of special significance to the area's gardening history;
- Assist with farm camp duties, as required;
- Assist with the farm walk/trail development;
- Develop and deliver garden tours for diverse audiences: school groups, senior groups, and community groups;
- Track and record highlights of the 2021 garden season; successful plantings, challenges, etc;
- Develop awareness of and care for the museum's resources including its buildings, collections, gardens and animals;
- Share knowledge with visitors, and respond to enquiries

Desired Qualifications and Skills:

- Enrolled in a horticultural, agricultural, science, or food and nutrition degree or certificate program and 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;
- Physically capable of performing the duties assigned

The Cole Harbour Rural Heritage Society is committed to developing a workforce that is reflective of the diverse communities it serves, and welcomes applications from all eligible African Nova Scotians, racially visible persons, women (applying for non-traditional positions), persons with disabilities, Aboriginal persons and persons of the LGBTQ+ community. The chosen candidate must be a full-time student, enrolled in or returning to full time studies in September. Rate of pay is \$13.50/hour for a 35-hour work week. This is a summer term position for up to 14 weeks. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled, and should be addressed to **Janice Kirkbright, Executive Director, Cole Harbour Heritage Farm Museum, 471 Poplar Drive, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, B2W 4L2** or emailed to director@coleharbourfarmmuseum.ca. The interview will be conducted by a panel of a minimum of 2 persons consisting of Executive Director, Environment and Programming Manager, Collections Manager, and/or Board Representative.

This is a term position subject to provincial funding.

