

Farm Life Interpreter (Summer Position) 2024

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 3000 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

One of the most popular experiences at the Cole Harbour Heritage Farm is the opportunity to meet farm animals in the historic Settle Barn. The Farm Life Interpreter will care for these animals, as well as keep the barn attractive and tidy. They will develop knowledge of livestock, specifically in Cole Harbour and Nova Scotia, as well as other past and current agricultural practices. In this way, they can better interpret the animal barn and provide support to the museum's programming operations. The Farm Life Interpreter will be an important part of making the Farm a vibrant and educational place for young and old.

Reporting to the museum Executive Director, the duties of the Farm Life Interpreter will include:

- Tending to the daily feeding and care of farm animals under the direction of senior staff and/or senior volunteers;
- Developing knowledge and resources of rural history in Cole Harbour and the Museum's collection of agricultural artifacts and implements;
- Develop understanding of past and current agriculture practices, with particular emphasis on sustainable animal agriculture and mixed farming;
- Performing barn chores using prescribed working artifacts and methods;
- Support collections care and management when needed, particularly with regards to artifacts displayed in the animal barn;



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- Maintaining all areas of the livestock barn and keeping exhibits, visitor, and staff areas clean and orderly;
- Maintaining an active presence in livestock or garden exhibits areas and engaging visitors, gauging their interests, and responding to enquiries;
- Conducting livestock tours for children groups, senior groups, and community groups;
- Other duties as required;
- Contribute to the overall success of the summer season.

Desired qualifications/skills include:

- Enrolled in/graduate of a Museum Studies, History, Social Sciences, Agricultural or Recreation degree or certificate program;
- Demonstrated interest in museum/cultural interpretation;
- Demonstrated interest in agriculture and livestock;
- Demonstrated interest in museum programming;
- Excellent customer service and oral communication skills;
- Desire for continuous learning – each day brings new questions and challenges;
- Knowledge of animal husbandry considered a definite asset;
- Experience within a cultural institution considered an asset;
- Handy skills and manual equipment use considered an asset;
- Have an aptitude for safe work practices and the ability to multi-task in a busy work environment;
- Be able to work productively as part of a team while responding to feedback

Working Conditions

- Frequent physical demands;
- Working outdoors in all conditions;
- Potential for cuts, scrapes, bites;
- Repetitive tasks; digging, lifting, bending, squatting;
- Ability to lift 50lbs/25kg, push/pull 80lbs/40kg.

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, Indigenous persons and persons of the LGBTQ+ community. Anyone meeting the skill requirements is invited to apply. Applicants must be eligible for the Canada Summer Jobs program (requirement can be found by scrolling to “What youth



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participants are eligible?") here:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/funding/canada-summer-jobs/screening-eligibility.html#h2.03>. Rate of pay is \$15.50/hour for a 30 - 35 hour work week. This is a summer term position

lasting approximately 8 - 10 weeks. Applications should consist of a cover letter and resume, and should be submitted as PDF documents. They will be accepted until **April 30, 2024** 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 **hello@coleharbourfarmmuseum.ca**. The interview will be conducted by a panel of a minimum 2 persons consisting of Executive Director, Collections Manager, and/or Board Representative.

This is a term position subject to funding from Canada Summer Jobs.