

# Community-Based Education Program



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## Promotional Copy

### # 4255 - Oral History of Agricultural Practices in City of Kawartha Lakes

#### Organization Information

The host organization is a non-governmental, non-profit charity based in Peterborough. Its mission is to conserve the natural and cultural heritage and distinctive landscapes of the Kawartha bioregion. Established in 2001, the organization is a land trust that works with landowners, cultural heritage organizations and the community to identify and protect key ecological and cultural features in the Kawarthas. Its programs include land conservation, cultural heritage conservation, farm outreach and research, mapping and sustainability planning.

#### Project Information

Agriculture is an important cultural heritage of the City of Kawartha Lakes. From cattle to crops, farming has been a critical social and economic driver in this rural landscape. There is a long history of multigenerational family farming in the region. Many new and young families are also moving into the region to embark on small scale and sustainable farming. As older generations pass away, the stories and memories are lost, which means that the history is lost as well. Oral histories are important means to understand the social, economic, technological, and environmental changes in agricultural practices that have shaped the rural landscape. Stories learned from older generations will also be useful for younger and new generation farmers to learn from past experience and to understand farming as a profession and a lifestyle.

The purpose of this project is to conduct an oral history of agricultural practices using multimedia tools to record conversations with farmers in order to understand the social, economic, technological, and environmental changes in agricultural practices.

#### Benefit to the Host Organization and the Community

Agriculture is part of the rural cultural heritage of the City of Kawartha Lakes. As an organization that promotes conservation of cultural and natural heritage and landscapes in the City of Kawartha Lakes, the host will gain important insights into the social, economic, technological, and environmental history of an important activity that has shaped the landscape in the region. Multimedia stories will also add to our database of cultural resources that can be shared with the community and with the educational institutions that train aspiring farmers and students in sustainable agriculture and agricultural practices. One of the other key ways that the host fulfills its mission is through advocacy, networking, and generating awareness about the value of culture, heritage, and the environment. Stories like this will help communicate the rich history and cultural value of the region to various stakeholders that we deal with including: heritage organizations, museums, levels of government, agri-businesses, and the agricultural sector.

### **What Students Might Learn**

- Skills in interviewing and gathering information from various stakeholders.
- Skills using multimedia tools and transcribing
- Report writing
- Opportunity to share academic research to relevant key individuals and stakeholders
- Utilize and enhance skills in research methods, report writing, and stakeholder relations
- Experience in a professional environment including interaction with staff and representatives from community organizations

### **Screening or Training Requirements**

- None

### **Skills or Experience Needed**

- Ability and interest in developing interview questions/topics and conducting interviews
- Interest in oral histories
- Interest in agriculture and sustainability
- Oral history interview and research skills, including use of multi-media tools, and report writing
- Strong organizational, communication, listening, and interpersonal skills

### **Resources Required for Project that will be Provided by Host**

The resources to be provided will include: assistance with general methodology, outline of topics for oral history information gathering, and audio and video multi-media tools. Any travel and photocopy costs will be available where approved in advance. Students will be provided space and computer at the office of the organization if required. Should any other resources be required, the organization will assist with or will find alternate resource support.