



# The Sunnybrook Seasons

Spring 2026 | Volume 1 | Issue 1



Welcome to the Spring 2026 edition of the Sunnybrook Farm Museum's quarterly newsletter!

First and foremost, thank you for your patience as we get this new initiative up and running. Like any good farm project, it takes a little planning, teamwork, and care to build something meaningful — and we're excited to finally share this with you.

Each quarter, this newsletter will keep you connected to what's happening here at the museum. You can expect:

- 🌻 **Upcoming events and activities** — workshops, special event days, and seasonal celebrations
- 🐔 **What we've been up to** — behind-the-scenes projects, exhibit updates, animal news, and restoration work
- 🏠 **Education updates** — school programs, camps, and new learning initiatives
- 📷 **Stories from the farm** — historical features and artifacts from our collection

Our goal is to give you a glimpse of life on the farm — past and present — and to keep you informed about ways to visit, participate, and support Sunnybrook Farm Museum

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## From the Executive Director

### A Year to Remember - and an Exciting Road Ahead

2025 was a remarkable year for Sunnybrook Farm Museum, and we have so many people to thank for making it one of our best yet.

Our summer team — McKenzie, McKenna, Olivia, Kianna, and Sheridan — brought energy, dedication, and heart to every single day. The animals were as beloved as ever. Cluckingham Palace, our gorgeous new half-scale Eaton's catalogue chicken coop built by Red Deer Polytechnic carpentry students, was a visitor favourite, and Honey the rabbit's ten babies were an absolute sensation at Spring on the Farm.

Speaking of Spring on the Farm — we set a new record, raising over \$10,000 in a single day. Pioneer Days matched our strong 2024 results, the Mom Market welcomed 32 vendors and many new faces, and we were deeply honoured to host the Alberta Museums Association's Fall Gathering, welcoming 120 museum professionals to our grounds for the very first time.

On the capital side, we dedicated the new stained-glass windows in the Willowdale Church, installed permanent LED lighting generously donated by Central Alberta Lighting and Gemstone Lights, and put our new Kubota tractor into service in memory of Susan Eileen Deering.



We also faced a significant funding challenge late in the year. Through the incredible support of our community — and a unanimous vote by Red Deer City Council — we secured \$30,000 in ongoing annual funding, establishing a stronger and more direct relationship with the city than ever before.

Looking ahead to 2026, we're working with construction companies on an exciting new workshop and cold storage building.

Thank you for being part of the Sunnybrook story. The best is still to come.



## In Memoriam

### Gordon McNaughton

We remember with gratitude Gordon McNaughton, one of the original Board members of Sunnybrook Farm Museum when it was founded in 1996. Gordon was deeply committed to the educational mission of Sunnybrook Farm, especially the presentation of our school programs. He brought particular enthusiasm to teaching

summer staff about the **Levers & Gears Science program**, sharing both his knowledge and his belief in hands-on, curiosity-driven learning.

Gordon's passion, generosity of spirit, and dedication helped shape the strong foundation of programs we continue to build on today. He will be fondly remembered and sincerely missed by our community.

Read Gordon McNaughton's full obituary here:

<https://www.choicememorial.com/obituaries/Gordon-Roy-Mcnaughton>

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## Upcoming Events

For more detail about upcoming events, check out the calendar on our website. <https://sunnybrookmuseum.ca/events>

### ***Old-Fashioned Ham Dinner***

- Wednesday May 6 & Thursday May 7
  - Sitings at 5:00pm and 6:30pm
- Tickets are \$20 each
  - Tickets went on sale Tuesday April 7 - Call the office for current availability

### ***Spring on the Farm***

- Saturday May 30
  - 8:00am to 4:00pm
- Admission by donation (additional meal charges apply)

### ***Lunch at the Farm***

- Bi-Monthly, starting June 10 - see our Events Calendar on our website for a full listing of dates
    - Two seatings at 11:30am and 12:30 pm
  - \$15 per person; children 6 & under \$7
    - **Reservations are recommended**
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## What We've Been Up To

## Restoration Corner

Even though the museum exhibit buildings are closed for the winter, the volunteers at Sunnybrook Farm take this time to work on projects such as restoring artifacts! Their first project this season was to restore a Saw Mandrel that was donated to us in 1993!



Restoration projects like this are a labour of love; and I know that seeing this saw mandrel so beautifully brought back to life, is heartwarming. This was the first of two restoration projects that the volunteers worked on this winter!



## Family Snow Day

One of our popular winter events is our Family Snow Day. We had beautiful weather, and two teams of horses to pull wagon rides around the site. In addition to the rides, there was marshmallow roasting, hot chocolate and cookies, and families were encouraged to bring their own sleds and toboggans to enjoy sliding down the hill by the Hanna Log House.

## Children's Easter Hunt

The Children's Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt was a huge success again this year! The site was hopping with children, adults, and, of course, the



Easter Bunny! We tried something new and gave out cookie kits as a finishing prize for participants, which was met with a lot of positive

feedback. Though apparently some cookies didn't make it home to be decorated!

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## From the Barnyard



### **The Animals Return in May**

We're counting down the days to the return of the baby animals at the beginning of May!

The summer interpretive staff and animal care lead start their training on May 1, and the animals

will begin to arrive shortly after that. We'll have everyone onsite in time for Spring on the Farm, on Saturday May 30.

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## Programs at the Farm



### **Summer Day Camps**

Sunnybrook Farm Museum's Summer Day Camps run 9:00



### **Birthday Parties**

Host a memorable children's birthday at Sunnybrook Farm

a.m.–4:30 p.m. for children ages 5–11, featuring themed weeks with hands-on farm fun, outdoor activities, and special guest visitors related to each theme.

**\$45 per day**

**\$195 per week**

[Day Camp Information](#)

Museum! For \$125, enjoy a reserved picnic space, guided animal tour, barrel train ride, and weather backup in the Hanna Log House. Available most weekends May–August, mornings or afternoons.

**\$125**

[Birthday Party Information](#)

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## History Snapshot

### Just a Covered Wagon?

Did you know that the museum has a covered wagon in it's collection that was restored and used in the 1996 Western Stock Grower's Association Centennial Cattle Drive? It's quite the artifact to have in our collection, and the



Cattle Drive itself was even written about in Reader's Digest in 1997! You can click the button below to read a re-typed copy. The wagon went on quite the adventure before it was donated to the museum.

[Reader's Digest Article](#)

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[Click Here To Donate](#)

## Thank You for Supporting Sunnybrook

Your ongoing support makes everything we do at Sunnybrook Farm Museum possible. As a community-supported non-profit, we rely on donations to maintain our farm, protect our history, and continue offering educational programs.

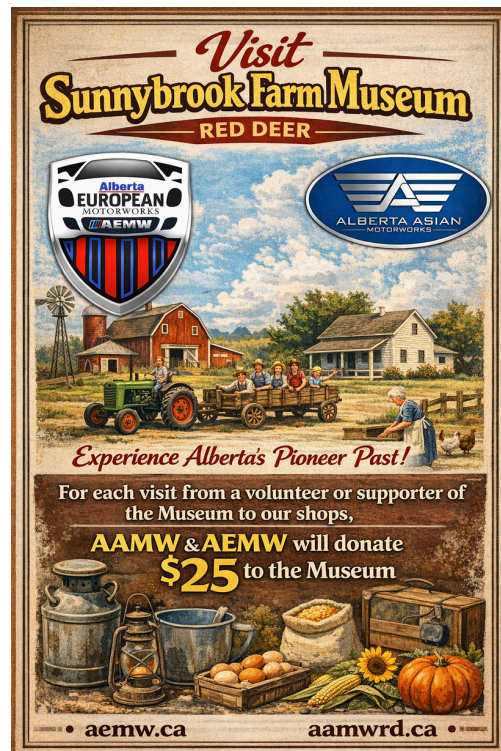
If Sunnybrook holds a special place in your heart, please consider making a donation this season. Your generosity truly makes a difference.

## Community Fundraiser Highlight

Support Sunnybrook Farm Museum with your next vehicle service!

For every visit by a Sunnybrook supporter or volunteer to Alberta European Motorworks or Alberta Asian Motorworks, \$25 will be donated to the museum.

- Book an appointment
- Mention the Sunnybrook Farm Museum fundraiser
- Make a difference



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