

Caldwell Heritage Farm - Overview

History of the Property

Caldwell Heritage Farm is situated in southeast Kelowna at 4275 Goodison Road. The property was purchased in 1990 by Jake and Julie Warkentin who developed their 'labour of love' into a farmland paradise over 24 years. On Julie and Jake's passing, the property was left to their daughter Kristi, son-in-law James and their two young daughters.



Current & Future Agricultural Activities

Since inheriting the property in spring 2014, Kristi and James' primary focus has been to continue Jake and Julie's previous farming activities, as well as steadily build upon and improve them. They have undertaken a number of developments contributing to their goal of operating a well-rounded family farm:

- **Free Range Chickens (layers)** - 55 Sex-Sal-Link's arrived in May 2015, and are now in full egg production. Raised using organic practices, with a mobile coop under construction to allow the chickens to more effectively graze the full pasture.
- **Vegetable garden** - constructed and planted spring 2015, and now in full production. All produce is grown using organic practices.
- **Berry & herb production** - first plantings of juniper and lavender complete, more to be added spring 2016.
- **Apiary** - bee hive ordered, scheduled to arrive in Feb 2016.
- **Bee forage** - dutch white clover to be planted spring 2016.
- **Floriculture** - large wildflower (cutting) garden to be planted spring 2016.
- **Cattle** - plan to acquire three head in April 2016; likely Angus / Hereford cross. Cattle will share the pasture with chickens, and will also be raised using organic practices.



One of the primary inspirations behind the Caldwells' desire to operate a farm is the opportunity to raise their children within this lifestyle. Educating the next generation about 'where food really comes from' is something both James and Kristi feel very passionate about. The prospect of sharing this with others beyond their own family is what brought the Caldwells to consider delving into agri-tourism.

Agri-tourism Initiatives

There are three main agri-tourism activities the Caldwells hope to embark upon. The combination of visitor experiences will do well to highlight the agricultural history of the area as well as preserve the agricultural integrity of the land.

1. Agricultural Heritage Exhibit *(confirmed allowable by City of Kelowna and ALC)*

The farm is home to a collection of farm equipment, industrial tools and antiques which form an agricultural heritage tour throughout the property. Guests can stroll the grounds, and see and read about the various pieces and how they were used when 'in service'. Interpretive signage will accompany key pieces, and research is underway to ensure the descriptions and displays are accurate and relevant to visitors' overall experience of the farm.



Points of interest include a small blacksmith shop, a tool museum, and three farm equipment sheds that house the various tractors and vehicles. Numerous pieces in the collection have a specific connection to the agricultural or business heritage of the Okanagan or British Columbia, including:

- **1952 Massey-Harris 55 farm tractor** - formerly used at Douglas Lake Ranch
- **1947 Fargo 1 ¾ ton flatbed truck** - used in Kelowna by Jenkins Cartage
- **1940 Dodge ½ ton pick-up** - 40 yrs in Cranbrook, 30+ yrs in Kelowna used by Robertson's Clothing



- **1919 National Buk** - used as a logging truck in the Carmi & Beaverdell areas in the 1940's and 50's
- **1905 International Harvester Hay Press** - used in the North Okanagan as a contract / mobile hay bailer, at various area farms

2. Craft Farm Distillery - On-site Demonstrations, Tastings & Sales *(proposed)*



The second key piece of the Caldwells' agri-tourism plan is a small batch craft distillery, to be housed in an existing outbuilding. Flavourings including juniper, lavender and other botanicals are already grown on-site at the farm, and the grains and fruit would be sourced exclusively from BC farm producers. The desire is to provide demonstrations of various portions of the distillation process using a 26-gallon copper still system. The 'mash' would be cooked on an existing cast-iron antique wood burning stove, fermented, and then run through the still.

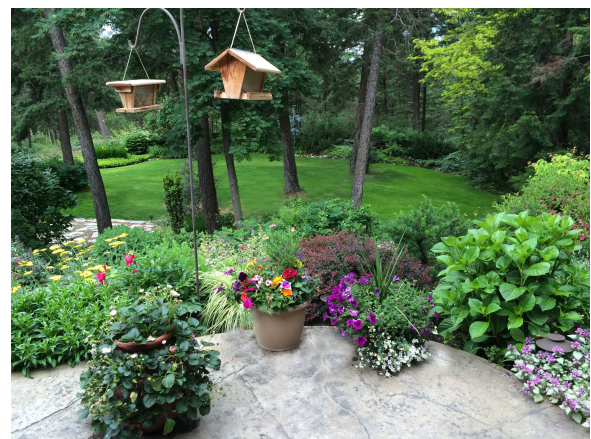
The intimate nature of such a compact and unique demonstration set-up would allow visitors to see and understand the fascinating distillation process, even when done on such a small scale. The use of ingredients grown on site would make this a true 'farm to bottle' offering.



3. Farm Weddings - Ceremony Venue *(proposed)*

The backyard lawn located to the west of the house provides a picturesque location for wedding ceremonies. One of the unique features of holding a ceremony at the property is the opportunity for guests to tour the farm and gardens, as well as explore the agricultural heritage exhibit displays.

Important Notes: Ceremony bookings would be limited in size, and available for Saturday afternoons, May - Sept only. All parking for wedding guests can be accommodated on existing paved & gravel driveways.



Other Key Notes

Open invitation for AAC and ALC to tour the farm

As per the note in section 7 of the online proposal, we openly invite any and all members of the Kelowna AAC, as well as the review panel of the ALC to visit the farm for a tour of the existing and planned activities. We are happy to accommodate these visits in any combination of groups, or individually.

Seeking advice on growing our agricultural productivity

We have reached out to a number of agriculture industry experts asking for advice on how we can improve and increase the agricultural production on our property, as we have found our soil (clay-based glacial till) and topography (heavily treed) to be somewhat challenging thus far. To date we have contacted: Pete Spencer from Environmental Farm Plan, Ron Smaha from BC Assessment, Carl Withler and Greg Tegart from the Ministry of Agriculture, Helen Kennedy from Arlo's Honey Farm, as well as surrounding neighbour farmers. We have put some of their recommendations into practice, but will welcome any and all additional advice that the Kelowna AAC and ALC may be able to provide.

Focus on environmental sustainability

We are in the process of completing our BC Environmental Farm Plan certification, and are committed to and passionate about continuous learning on best practices for our farm's productivity, and the environment.

Neighbourhood support

Our family places great value on being 'good neighbours', and serving our surrounding farm community well. We held a neighbourhood get-together on April 1, 2015, where we shared our plans for the farm and agri-tourism initiatives as described in this document. All residents of Goodison Rd, as well as additional residents from surrounding properties, signed their unanimous support of our proposed business endeavours (see "Neighbourhood Support" doc).