

**President’s 2020–2021 Report**

This year has been another challenging one for the Culinary Historians of Canada. Due to Covid 19, we still await a chance to meet face to face. Like many organizations, virtual events have been the way for us to connect with one another.

Our Programming Committee, led by Sylvia Lovegren, is to be highly commended for providing you with the following Zoom events that celebrate Canada’s diverse culinary history. Beginning last September, we have heard about:

* Suzanne Evans’ talk about Ethel Mulvaney’s Starving Prisoners of War Cookbook
* Sherry Murphy’s 5th Annual Victorian Christmas Baking Event
* Fiona Lucas’ presentation on Enjoying and Surviving a Canadian Winter
* Sarah Hood’s Marmalade Mavens talk
* Charoset Cooking Class for Passover put on by the Montreal-based Wandering Chew restaurant with CHC member Kat Romanow
* The Canadian Who Collected over 4500 Beer Cans with Dr. David Maxwell at Simon Fraser University in BC
* Uncertain Harvest: The Future of Food on a Warming Planet by Ian Mosby and Sarah Rotz
* Packaged Toronto: Vintage Food Packaging and the Companies Behind Them with researcher and writer Jamie Bradburn
* CHC honorary members Mary Williamson and Elizabeth Baird spoke to us about Mrs. Dalgairns’ Kitchen: The Practice of Cookery.

From May 11-15, CHC members attended, and three panels presented papers at the Rural Women’s Studies Association conference held virtually this year. Gratitude is expressed to Fiona Lucas and Julia Armstrong for editing and guiding the following participants: Nathalie Cooke, Carolyn Crawford, Suzanne Evans, Samantha George, Gary Gillman, John Ota, Chantal Vechambre, and Bonnie Sitter and Shirleyan English for providing CHC with fascinating papers, provocative discussion and proud CHC representation! You will soon see the fruits of their labours with the launch of these papers on our website.

In the fall of 2020, Vice President Samantha George successfully applied, on CHC’s behalf, for a Government of Canada grant in the New Horizons for Seniors Program (NHSP) which was awarded to us earlier this year. With these funds, CHC has created “Just A Bite: Summer Food Memories from Ontario Seniors. Carolyn Crawford, Samantha George, Fiona Lucas, Jennifer Meyer, Sherry Murphy worked on preparing a questionnaire for seniors to activate their many summer food memories be it with family, on a family farm, at food festivals, in foraging for food, in the workplace, during wartimes, or before they came to Ontario. By the time we reach our AGM, results of the questionnaire will be returning to us and the intense work of shaping the submissions into a document will have begun. Just a Bite or “JaB” as we affectionately refer to it, will record some of Ontario’s summer culinary history. Look for this fascinating document in February 2022!

Julia Armstrong will be stepping down from her position as Co-Chair of the Communications committee. She will be remaining on the committee serving more behind the scenes. Thank you, Julia for your contributions as co-chair that are too numerous to list here!

I, too, will be stepping down. I have been very blessed to serve as President of this wonderful organization for three years. My time serving on the board began in the position of Secretary two and a half years prior to that. I have enjoyed every minute! My fellow board members are amazing people to work with and I look forward to continuing to work with them as Past President. To them, I owe my deepest gratitude for their unfailing support and encouragement. To all of you, thank you for having me as your president. It has been wonderful opportunity and I feel the richer for it.

With the many events and activities that lie ahead, and all the board members and their committees who continue to work diligently to make it all happen, I can confidently declare that CHC will continue to inspire an appreciation of Canadian food history!

Respectfully submitted,

**Carolyn Crawford**