

Group tracking local farming history

BY CALEIGH BOYLE

Kawartha Heritage Conservancy (KHC) is looking for farmers and families of the 4th Line of Asphodel/Dummer to share their stories of life on the 4th Line.

Since Dec. 1, KHC has been conducting a project to gather multi-generational stories about the history and the changes in agricultural practices along the 4th Line of Asphodel/Dummer townships.

The organization is focusing on the 4th Line area because it has a wide range of history beginning at Rice Lake and extending all the way to Stony Lake, and is geographically appealing. The southern portion begins in a region with soil that has no significant limitations to agricultural practice.

Moving towards the north, the 4th Line enters an area of the pre-Cambrian shield, creating great restrictions for what the land can be used for. As a result of this, the 4th Line presents opportunities to study diverse agricultural backgrounds based on soil type and capability.

The project intends to keep the history of the changes this area has gone through alive and known. KHC is looking to learn more about changes in farming equipment, crops, land and so on.

"As generations pass away, you lose their stories, which means you lose their history," says Suresh Kandaswamy, a member of the KHC.

Information that is given by the farmers and families will only be released with their consent.

Keeping a record of multi-generations will also help members of KHC to better understand the changes, opportunities and the challenges that have happened in this region.

Throughout the next few months, representatives of KHC will be contacting farmers and families in the area.

To learn more, go to www.kawarthaheritage.org