

# CIRCLING HAWK HONEY & MEAD

Circling Hawk Honey & Mead | 13433 Leslie St, Richmond Hill ON | Oak Ridges Moraine

## JOB POSTING

### Fruit Wine & Orchard Coordinator

Work-Integrated Learning Placement | Summer 2026

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<b>Employer:</b>	Gregg Scott & Michele Mihalik, operating as Circling Hawk Honey & Mead
<b>Location:</b>	13433 Leslie St, Richmond Hill, Ontario (Oak Ridges Moraine)
<b>Position Type:</b>	Work-Integrated Learning (co-op, applied project, or practicum)
<b>Placement Term:</b>	Summer 2026 (dates flexible to align with academic schedule)
<b>Application Number:</b>	1111002
<b>Compensation:</b>	To be confirmed — partially funded through WIL program
<b>Hours:</b>	Full-time during placement term

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#### About Circling Hawk Farm

Circling Hawk is a diversified agricultural operation located on the Oak Ridges Moraine in Richmond Hill, Ontario. We operate over 300 honey bee colonies for commercial queen rearing and raw honey production, and grow a range of fruit crops including haskap berries, pears, apples, raspberry, and sea buckthorn. Our meadery, Circling Hawk Honey & Mead, holds an LCBO Winery Direct Delivery Authorization and produces small-batch mead and fruit wines for Ontario's licensed hospitality sector.

We are a hands-on, working farm that values curiosity, initiative, and a genuine interest in sustainable agriculture and artisan food production. Students who join us gain direct experience at the intersection of horticulture, fermentation science, and farm business operations.

#### About the Role

The Fruit Wine & Orchard Coordinator will play a central role in the management and care of our fruit-bearing crops during the critical summer growing season. Working directly with the farm operators, the successful candidate will gain hands-on experience in orchard and berry crop husbandry, as well as an introduction to small-scale fruit wine and mead production using farm-grown ingredients.

This is an ideal placement for a student enrolled in horticulture, agriculture, food science, viticulture, fermentation science, or a related program who is looking to apply classroom knowledge in a real-world farm and meadery environment.

## Our Fruit Crops

- Haskap berries (*Lonicera caerulea*) — 2 acres of cultivated haskap, an emerging high-value berry crop with significant antioxidant content and strong interest from the craft beverage sector
- Pears and apples — 1 acre of established tree fruit
- Raspberry — managed cane fruit production
- Sea Buckthorn — 2 established groves
- Elderberry — 1 established grove

## Key Responsibilities

The Fruit Wine & Orchard Coordinator will be responsible for, or actively involved in, the following:

### Orchard and Berry Crop Management

- Monitoring crop health and identifying pest, disease, or nutrient deficiency issues
- Fertilizer application — soil testing interpretation, nutrient scheduling, and application
- Weeding and ground cover management across all fruit crop areas
- Pruning and canopy management for tree fruit and cane fruit
- Netting for protection from birds
- Irrigation monitoring and watering schedule management
- Harvest readiness assessment and assisting with picking operations
- Harvesting

### Fruit Wine & Mead Production (Introductory)

- Observing and assisting with fruit wine and mead production using farm-grown haskap, apple, and pear
- Learning the basics of must preparation, fermentation monitoring, and product quality assessment
- Supporting LCBO-compliant product documentation and record-keeping

### Farm Operations Support

- Maintaining accurate field records (inputs, observations, harvest data)
- Participating in farm tours and agri-tourism activities as required
- General farm maintenance and equipment care as directed

## Work-Integrated Learning Outcomes

This placement is designed to support the following learning outcomes, which can be adapted to align with your academic program's specific WIL requirements:

- Apply horticultural principles to the management of diverse fruit crops in a commercial farm setting
- Develop practical skills in integrated pest and nutrient management

- Gain exposure to small-batch fermentation and artisan beverage production
- Build experience in farm record-keeping and regulatory compliance (LCBO)
- Develop professional communication and project coordination skills in an agricultural business context

We are pleased to collaborate with your institution's WIL coordinator to define a learning plan, provide mid-term and final evaluations, and support any academic deliverables required by your program (journals, reports, presentations, applied projects).

## What We're Looking For

### Required:

- Currently enrolled in a post-secondary program with an agriculture or beverage production focus that has a work-integrated learning component (co-op, practicum, applied project, or internship)
- Genuine interest in agriculture, horticulture, sustainable farming, or food and beverage production
- Physically capable of outdoor work in varying weather conditions
- Reliable, self-motivated, and comfortable working with a degree of independence
- Valid driver's licence (farm is not transit-accessible)

### Assets (not required):

- Previous experience with fruit growing, market gardening, or farm work
- Knowledge of pruning, irrigation systems, or integrated pest management
- Interest in fermentation, mead, cider, or fruit wine
- Experience with agricultural record-keeping or field data collection

## What We Offer

- A meaningful, hands-on placement at a working farm and licensed meadery on the Oak Ridges Moraine
- Mentorship from experienced farm operators with backgrounds in agriculture, engineering, and artisan beverage production
- Exposure to the full arc of farm-to-bottle fruit wine production
- A supportive learning environment with flexibility to align with your academic requirements
- Partial funding through an approved WIL program (Application No. 1111002)

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## How to Apply

Please submit the following to

Please submit the following to [jobs@circlinghawkfarm.com](mailto:jobs@circlinghawkfarm.com) with the subject line "**Fruit Wine & Orchard Coordinator — [Your Name]**":

- A current resume

- A brief cover letter (1 page) describing your program of study, relevant experience, and why this placement interests you
- Confirmation from your institution that the placement qualifies for your WIL requirement

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis. We encourage early submission. For questions, contact Gregg Scott at [jobs@circlinghawkfarm.com](mailto:jobs@circlinghawkfarm.com).

*Circling Hawk Farm is committed to providing an inclusive and supportive learning environment.*

WIL Application No. 1111002 | [circlinghawkfarm.com](http://circlinghawkfarm.com)