



Speaking Notes for Mayor Ryan

**Pickering Museum Village Volunteer Appreciation Reception
Tuesday, April 20, 2010
Pickering Civic Complex (Council Chambers)**

Good evening and welcome to the Pickering Museum Village Volunteer Appreciation Reception.

As Mayor of the City of Pickering, I am pleased to join you on this very special occasion – an event dedicated to you, the remarkable and invaluable volunteers of the Pickering Museum Village.

At this time, I would like to introduce Members of Council that are here this evening:

Bonnie Littley, Regional Councillor – Ward One

Bill McLean, Regional Councillor – Ward Two

Rick Johnson, Regional Councillor – Ward Three

Jennifer O’Connell, City Councillor – Ward One

Doug Dickerson, City Councillor – Ward Two

David Pickles, City Councillor – Ward Three

In particular, I would like to acknowledge Councillor McLean, who is a member of the Pickering Museum Village Advisory Committee and has always been a strong advocate for the Pickering Museum Village and its volunteers. Thanks for all that you have done.

We are here tonight, during National Volunteer Week, to look back on the great work that has been done over the past year by Museum volunteers and to celebrate those achievements.

2009 was another successful year for the museum.

Throughout the year the volunteers of Pickering Museum Village hosted many theatrical and fundraising events; showcased unique heritage gardens and costumes; enjoyed heritage inspired dances and songs; presented exclusive gas and steam equipment; continued the excellent carpentry work in the Woodright's Woodshop; and provided valuable insight to Council and staff.

The already substantial museum volunteer program grew in 2009 to include the Vintage Victuals – which provides experiences and education in heritage food. With over 300 museum volunteers currently in the volunteer program, the number of people interested in donating their time at the Pickering Museum Village shows no signs of slowing down.

Your achievements are incredible, your sheer numbers are impressive and our Members of Council and staff appreciate your time and dedication to making the Pickering Museum Village what it is – a vibrant and award-winning living history museum – one of the best of its kind anywhere in Canada.

As a testament to the success of the volunteer program and the significant contributions of our volunteers, the Pickering Museum Village Volunteer Program was awarded the 2009 Award of Excellence from Parks and Recreation Ontario. Congratulations to each of you!

Through your collective efforts, the Pickering Museum Village has been able to engage thousands of visitors in the stories of Pickering's valued past. We are proud of the unique experiences each of our volunteer groups are able to offer our guests that visit from right across the province.

Throughout 2010, we look forward to even more enhancements to the Pickering Museum Village as part of the Building Canada Fund. As you may recall, the City of Pickering Building Canada Fund application for restoration and upgrade projects at the Pickering Museum Village was approved in early 2009.

The governments of Canada and Ontario will each invest up to \$295,000 in the project. The City of Pickering, with financial assistance from the Pickering Museum Village Foundation, will contribute the balance of the total eligible project cost of up to \$885,000.

In 2009, the Building Canada project focused on the restoration of the Brougham Central Hotel Restoration and

Log Barn. I am sure you will agree that both heritage buildings are looking wonderful and we are anxiously awaiting the Official Opening of the Hotel which will take place in June.

In 2010, the Building Canada project will focus on improvements to the grading of the walkway, strategic lighting within the village, proper foundation of various Museum buildings and more.

Staff and volunteers were able to work successfully to coordinate the construction work in 2009 so there was limited disruption to the Museum and its activities. We are confident that this smooth transition will continue in 2010.

We have much to celebrate and are very excited about our future. In fact, 2011 commemorates Pickering's Bicentennial and the Pickering Museum Village's 50th Anniversary. This will be an exciting and unforgettable year that will position the Pickering Museum Village as the heart of our year-long celebration.

We look forward to showcasing the Pickering Museum Village, Museum staff and volunteers and Pickering's rich history during this once in a lifetime milestone.

Once again, on behalf of the City of Pickering, I would like to personally thank you for your contributions. Your commitment to Pickering's heritage serves as an inspiration to others. You are true ambassadors for the Pickering Museum Village and the City of Pickering. I hope you continue to join us for years to come in telling the story of Pickering's rich past.