

# Pickering Junction News

City of Pickering • Culture and Recreation Division

Pickering Museum Village Foundation Newsletter

September, 2000 • Volume 6.2

## Learning without books!



Thanks again for all the wonderful support to the museum village this season.

We sincerely thank all the people who have made donations in support of the Puterbaugh School House project.

We thank **Louise Parkes** and the members of the Puterbaugh family for their gift. We appreciate the skills of **Tom Murison** and his crew of skilled craftsmen who so beautifully and carefully reconstructed our 1831 log house

into a practical, working school room for our 16,000 plus school children who visit the site annually.

We sincerely welcome the gift of the brass bell from the **Doug Watkins** family of Pickering. The weather even co-operated for our opening celebrations as we celebrated the completion of the schoolhouse, a joint City of Pickering and Pickering Museum Village Foundation project. Thanks again to all the **volunteers** who con-

tributed time and energy to do the fundraising which made this all possible, particularly **Pat Dunnill** and his group of loyal bingo runners.

This fall ends the third-year of this Advisory Committee's term. The Mayor will appoint a new advisory committee. Some members of this committee are moving on to do other volunteer jobs in the community. There will be vacancies on this committee which you could fill if

- a) you live in Pickering
- b) you respond to the request for City committees when it appears following this fall's civic elections
- c) you love the Museum Village and want to continue the great traditions started by this advisory committee
- d) you must be willing to attend the meetings and support staff by attending the special events in a volunteer capacity.

Thanks to all of you have attended special events over the last three years. We, as your advisory committee, appreciate you and know you support us.

Your gifts to the museum village Foundation are now taxable donations so please continue to support us as we try to do an interior face lift on the Bible Christian Chapel and work on the 1890s reed pump organ. All the proceeds from the Fall Family Festival will be used for this purpose.

Sincerely,

*Laura E. Drake*

Laura Drake, Chair  
Pickering Museum Village Advisory Committee

The  
**Mares**  
Horseshoe  
Challenge

**Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>**

Teams and sponsors wanted for this fundraising afternoon.

Call **Bill McLean 905•839•9177**  
for more information. 🐾

## Foundation AGM

Foundation members and interested guests attended the AGM in June and we able to listen and ask questions of the contractor responsible for the schoolhouse reconstruction. The meeting ended with dusk, but there were still lots of questions to be asked and answered.

Elections were held and Pat Dunnill, former Vice-Chair of the Foundation was elected as Chair for one year. The Foundation is looking for two directors to serve a three year term. Members who are interested and available to assist with fundraising are welcome to contact the current executive. 🐾

**PICKERING**  
**Museum**  
**Village**  
**FOUNDATION**

September 9 & 10

### History in Action

*A celebration of the bounty of the harvest and steam engine demonstrations*

September 15, 16, 22 & 23

### A Spirit Walk

*Meet the spirits of the 1837 rebellion.*

October 1

### Fall Family Festival

*Featuring the Mares Horseshoe Challenge, this fundraising afternoon is in support of the Chapel and 1890s pump organ.*

December 3 & 10

### Christmas in the Village

*Celebrate a Victorian Christmas and Scottish Hogmanay*

## From the Foundation Chair

While it is nice to turn a new direction with the Puterbaugh Schoolhouse now fully complete the Foundation will not forget the support received from such a wide variety of sources. We were proud to participate in the June 24<sup>th</sup> grand opening and to see so many people there interested in the schoolhouse, the museum village and its future.

The Foundation held its annual meeting on June 15<sup>th</sup> and we were fortunate enough to have Tom Murison available to speak about all the planning and work that went into reconstructing the schoolhouse. Also at the meeting the existing slate of directors was returned for another year. It was also decided that the Chair of the Advisory Board should be a director by virtue of that position, but would not hold the position of Chair of the Foundation. In an election I was chosen to lead the Foundation for the next year.

There seems to be more things to do then resources to do them at this time. On the front burner, so to speak, are three projects. A new museum village entrance will be constructed by the City in 2001 and the Foundation hopes to participate in making it more attractive and meaningful to visitors and passersby. There is an opportunity to do some much needed upgrade work on the 1853 Bible Christian Chapel and the Foundation has created a project for this work in the spring. Of course, our hope is that our next major project will be the restoration of the Brougham Temperance Hotel, and Tom Murison is currently conducting a condition assessment to determine the feasibility, direction and cost of such a restoration. We should have more news on that for the next newsletter.

The Foundation's fundraiser the Fall Family Festival returns October 1<sup>st</sup> with a bit of a new twist with more activities for adults to partake and the cost of the Mare's Horseshoe Challenge has been reduced to encourage more participation. It just takes two people to put a team together and you will have plenty of fun and your team just might win \$100. Hope to see you there, there's lots of other fun and winning to take place. Speaking of fun and winning, we are still desperately in need of volunteers for bingo running any Tuesday morning you are available. The number to call is - Pat at 905•839•4672, Ill be waiting for your call.

## Season Memberships

Single \$20 Family \$45

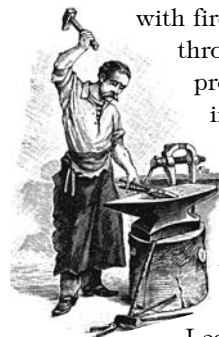
*not including A Spirit Walk*

PICKERING MUSEUM VILLAGE membership allows you to visit the museum village during the season as many times as you want, also the opportunity to book for A Spirit Walk one week before the limited tours go on sale to the public and receive \$2 off the tour price. Plus bring your children to Kids in the Village at no extra charge.

## Blacksmith workshop

Returns October 21 & 22 - \$150.

A two day hands-on introduction to blacksmithing techniques. Beginning



with fire management through to the finished product. Rob's interest in historical re-enactments is reflected in his knowledge of historic methods and materials used by blacksmiths in past centuries.

Learn the history as you work at the forge on your own creations.

All materials will be supplied, but you will need a 2-3 lb. hammer that you are comfortable with, cotton or leather gloves, a good imagination and a hearty lunch.

## If walls could talk

Supporters can now buy a copy of *If walls could talk*, the book containing information on Pickering Museum Village's heritage buildings with drawings from the Ajax Creative Arts - Millennium Collection as well as our own artist volunteers. The cost of the book, not only a wonderful souvenir of your visit, but an excellent hostess gift, sells at the museum village for \$8.

Other outlets are Pollikers in Greenwood, Willoughbys in Pickering and Artistic Endeavours in Oshawa.

We are delighted to also have *ready to frame* reprints of the collection available at special events during the summer. For only \$10 you can support our next project and take home an image of the museum village.

## P.M.V. Foundation Membership Levels

|           |       |            |        |
|-----------|-------|------------|--------|
| Member    | \$25  | Friend     | \$50   |
| Historian | \$100 | Benefactor | \$250  |
| Pioneer   | \$500 | Settler    | \$1000 |

## About our artifacts

*by Mike Lindo - Pollikers*

The museum has many kinds of storage boxes. *Travelling chests* went along with the immigrant settlers and later became the first piece of household furniture, simple locking pine board boxes made with mortise and tenon or dovetail joints were so common that many survive today as blanket boxes. Most had a tray at one end near the top in which were kept, a list of contents, the keys and a muslin bag of cedar, rosemary and camphor to keep out moths and mildew.

*Band boxes* were round shaped travelling boxes made with soft thin wood

steamed and bent into a circle. bottoms and lids were cut outs and the lid and box were covered in wallpaper and lined with newspaper. They were used for carrying bands and ruffs, bonnets, starched collars and cuffs. These boxes were most common from 1820 to 1860.

The *splint box* was heavier wood and without paper covering. in the early 1800s they were steamed and bent into shape by hand and fastened with hand forged nails or brads. Later these boxes were factory made. They were made in a variety of sizes, the largest may have held cheese, the smallest pills. Other boxes held kitchen items such as dried herbs spices and sugar.

## Info on events

### History in Action

September 9 & 10

A celebration of the bounty of the harvest and steam engine demonstrations. This two day event has different programmes for each day. Please call the site for more information.

### A Spirit Walk

September 15, 16, 22 & 23

Tickets go on sale on September 1 for this exciting evening escorted tour through the museum village.

Recommended for ages 12 years and up. Warm dry attire recommended. Tickets \$10 per person available through the museum village box office at 905•683•8401.

### The Fall Family Festival

Sunday, October 1

The fundraising event returns with the Mare's Horseshoe Challenge and other activities. To register for a fun afternoon of horseshoes and more, please contact **Bill McLean at 905•839•9177.**

### Christmas in the Village

December 3 & 10

Celebrate a Victorian Christmas and Scottish Hogmanay. 🍷

## Heritage Day Camp

Leila Persaud

This summer I was fortunate to be involved with the Heritage Day Camp at Pickering Museum Village which saw the development of several new craft programmes along with some of our tried and true programmes. It all led to a creative, fun-filled and educational two-week programme for children ages 5 through 12.

Over 10 days, the campers had the opportunity to make their own iced cream, paper, punched-tin lanterns, soap and hand-dipped beeswax candles. They also pressed and dried flowers, stencilled, made lemonade from scratch and helped in the mixing and baking of Irish soda bread over the open hearth. They were visited by a very strict school marm who tested their spelling and by the friendly blacksmith who helped them make the ever-popular triangle dinner bells. Along the way, we played games, sang songs, told each other riddles and learned a lot about life during pioneer times in a fun-filled and relaxed environment.

In total, 55 children attended 3 different two-week sessions. We could not

have asked for any better recommendation than to find out how many of the children and parents had told their friends, family and neighbours about our camp and encouraged them to attend.

It was wonderful working with Dave Marlowe, Katrina Pyke, Mary Delaney and Barbara Pleva to develop and deliver this program. I learned a lot from them and appreciated their warm welcome into the fold. The enthusiasm of our youth volunteers, Teresa McKenna and Shannon Sidsworth, made the task of amusing and supervising a large group of children manageable and even enjoyable. The many talents and the dedication of all involved came together to make the first Museum-run Heritage Day Camp a resounding success.

*Leila Persaud is a student in the Museum Management and Curatorship Programme at Sir Sanford Fleming College who interned at the museum village during the summer. 🍷*

## Wanted

THE PICKERING MUSEUM Village is looking for adult volunteers 17 years of age and older for the 2001 season.

Gardening, assisting with event set-up, taking admissions, and interpreting Pickering Township's history are just a few of the ways that you could donate your time. Museum volunteers' training workshops offered this season included:

- ✿ Volunteer Orientation
- ✿ Techniques for Successful Interpretation
- ✿ Costumes
- ✿ Gardening
- ✿ Using the Old Woodstove
- ✿ Weaving.

Adult **Volunteer Applications** can be obtained from the museum village or downloaded from the museum's web page. Completed applications can be submitted at the Pickering Museum Village by December 10, or to the Culture and Recreation Division of the City of Pickering. Following receipt of your application, **Katrina Pyke**, Volunteer Co-ordinator, will be pleased to contact you for an interview.

For more information on the Pickering Museum Village Volunteer Service and Recognition Programme, please call the museum. 🍷

## Bits from Bloomers & Britches:

by Julie Oakes

WE HAVE HAD a busy summer in the gardens and this was despite a lot of rainy weather in June and July!

Our new dye garden at the back of the Collins House looks very colourful with its array of giant zinnias, black-eyed susans, bee balm, feverfew, rose campion, and hollyhocks. We hope to use this garden next year to actively interpret the dye process, but we would like the plants to get well established this season.

The Miller-Cole garden is pretty with coral bells, gallardia, pinks, roses, love-lies-a-bleeding, day lilies, turk's cap lilies, and many more. Our red currant bush yielded enough currants to make eight jars of jelly which were sold in the general store. The vegetable garden was planted with

heritage seeds and now, in late summer, the plants have really taken off.

At the Log House, our clematis vine is twining along the fence, and the vegetables are yielding well. A new rose has been planted there and morning glories are climbing the old stump.

We'd like to welcome new Bloomers David Green, Laura Fairfield, Sandra Gelbard, Geoff Gelbard, Donna Leitch-Jacobs, and Vivian & Tim Vandenhazel.

An outing to the gardens of Casa Loma and Spadina House is planned for late August: we are hoping to get some new ideas, especially for late summer and autumn garden colour.

As always, we welcome any new members: **come garden with us any Tuesday morning** rain date: Thursday morning at 9:30 AM.

Call **Julie** at 905•728•6953 for more information. 🍷



## Dressing for the weather

Barb Vranic

WINTER IS COMING and one wonders how the pioneers managed without polyester-filled waterproofed Gortex outer wear and high performance Kodiak boots.

Serviceable footwear was a concern in early Canada. Many writers criticized the quality of Canadian leather and suggested immigrants bring a supply of shoes or leather with them. In her *Canadian Settler's Guide*, Catherine Parr Traill gave this advice in 1855. "No one need encumber themselves with clogs or pattens: the rough roads render them worse than useless, even dangerous, in the spring and fall, the only wet seasons:

in winter the snow clogs them up ... And in summer there is no need of them: buy shoes instead; or for winter wear a good pair of duffle boots, the sole overlaid with india-rubber or gutta percha."

When Susanna Moodie joined her sister, Catherine Parr Traill, in Canada in the 1830s, she obviously thought moccasins more practical than her British boots: "A thaw in the middle of winter is the most disagreeable change that can be imagined ... The snow has become soft and spongy and the foot slips into a wet and insidiously-yielding mass at every step ...

My sister, who had resided for nearly twelve months in the woods, was pro-

vided for her walk with Indian moccasins, which rendered her quite independent; but I stumbled at every step."

Catherine noticed the sensible attire of a neighbour's family: "The dresses of the children were of a course sort of plaid, a mixture of woolen and thread. The stockings, socks, muffatees and worm comforters were all of home manufacture. Both girls and boys wore moccasins of their own making."

To protect against that winter blast, it was a matter of putting on many warm layers. Mrs. John Graves Simcoe, in January, 1795 wrote: "I have learnt to wrap myself up enough to defy the cold but the weight of cloaths (sic) is very fatiguing." ❧

## Heritage buildings quilt

TICKETS ARE MOVING well for the hand embroidered queen-sized quilt entitled 'Rural Roads to Millennium City.' Irene Dewar adapted drawings by local artists to create this work of art. Quilters from Scarborough and Durham provided their time and talent.

The draw will be held during Christmas in the Village, on December 10. Tickets (\$2 each or 3 for \$5) available at the site or from quilters. ❧

## Many thank yous

ONTARIO POWER GENERATION, Pickering Nuclear (OPG) and Pat O'Brien in particular. OPG started a new venture with the Foundation this year by becoming an event sponsor for the 2000 season. ❧

Thank you to the media for their coverage of the museum village. Without **News Advertiser, KX 96** and **Shaw Cable 10** carrying our press releases we would not be able to keep you informed about activities at the site.

The concept presented to TVO's Studio 2 by **Mary Delaney** and **Katrina Pyke**, on *A Spirit Walk* was well received by their staff and we experienced a greater audience than we dreamed possible. We understand that the segment was recently aired again.

One of the delightful bonuses of presenting a great programme is the reaction generated by the public. **John Arkelian** was so taken with *A Spirit Walk* he wrote an excellent article on it and the museum village. It was published in the spring Oshawa Arts publication and the August issue of CARP.

Thanks also to the **PineRidge Arts Council** for their support of the museum village. ❧

## Durham's heritage education centre

TWO NEW COURSES are being introduced this year. ❧

PICKERING JUNCTION NEWS is a Pickering Museum Village Foundation and Advisory Committee publication.

If you have any questions, comments or additions to its contents, please send them to:

Pat Dunnill  
P. M. V. Foundation Chair  
736 Yereimi Street  
Pickering, ON L1W 2W9  
PHO: 905•839•4672  
or E-MAIL to:  
pat.dunnill@sympatico.ca ❧



## Site rentals

Brides and grooms looking for a different location for weddings or photos have chosen the Museum Village. Bookings are still being taken for the Chapel, Hall or Bandstand as well as use of the grounds for photo shoots, family and bridal portraits.

*Make your wedding an 'Historic Event'.*

❧ ❧ ❧

## Pickering Museum Village

is operated by the Culture and Recreation Division of the  
CITY OF PICKERING  
One The Esplanade  
Pickering, ON L1V 6K7

CITY PHONE: 905•420•4620 SITE PHONE: 905•683•8401

WEB SITE: [cityofpickering.com/museum](http://cityofpickering.com/museum)

E-MAIL < [museum@city.pickering.on.ca](mailto:museum@city.pickering.on.ca) >

*Regular Hours of Operation*

Spring & Fall – Tours by appointment only

June and September weekends only – 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM

July & August – Wednesday to Sunday – 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM

We are on Hwy. 7, between Brock Road and Westney Road, in Greenwood.