

Pickering Junction News

City of Pickering • Culture and Recreation Division

Pickering Museum Village Foundation Newsletter

May, 2002 • Volume 8.1

From the Advisory Committee Chair

Dear friends and supporters:

The sights and sounds of spring—the daffodils on the bank by the log cabin, the lilac buds on the bushes by the chapel and the blue birds and other song birds—alert us to the opening of another season in the museum village.

You will notice some major restorations of the drive shed, the beef ring barn, as well as The Bible Christian Chapel. The Chapel's new windows truly enhance the interior and exterior. The pews will be replaced with reproductions of the originals, possibly before you get to visit for the first time this season.

We are generously supported by City of Pickering and its staff which get the work done and supervised, as well as funding for the updating of our heritage buildings.

We are doubly blessed by the contributions from Pickering Museum Village Foundation and their fundraising from Bingo and many other community sponsors which annually donate dollars and talent to help us make our site the 'best family heritage experience in Pickering'.

Please review all of the information about the Foundation's and regular volunteer activities as projected for the season and contact us as to how you will become involved. Also feel free to photocopy any or all of the Junction News and pass the information to your neighbours so they can share our exciting season and mark our events on their calendar now.

We are in the beginning stages of our long awaited restoration of the Brougham Central Hotel. Watch for information re specific phases we will move through to get this job accomplished. If you have any suggestions how this onerous task may be undertaken and underwritten please contact any member of the Advisory Committee, the Foundation or a staff member.

Congratulations to our staff and volunteers who have won awards for their creativity re *A Spirit Walk* and their wonderful co-operation in the planning of an exciting programme of inventive interpretive activities to entice another record number of school groups, regular supporters and new visitors.

See you soon on site.

Laura E. Drake
Laura Drake

Pickering Museum Village Foundation Annual General Meeting

Thursday, June 13 at 7 P.M. in the Puterbaugh Schoolhouse.

More workshops to ignite your interest

THE STAFF AT Pickering Museum Village is pleased to be able to offer you more workshops in the village this year. Pickering Museum Village annual members receive a 15% discount on these workshops. Pre-registration is required and Fees do not include supply requirements.

Saturday, June 1, 9 A.M. – NOON

Soapmaking

Learn the process of making soap the old-fashioned way. Participants will learn to make a basic soap, select essences and add textures from nature's bounty. \$30

Saturday, July 6, 9 A.M. – NOON

Walking Stick

Participants will learn the steps involved in creating their own walking stick, starting from selecting appropriate materials to finishing and caring for the completed stick. \$25. ☪

Events 2002

Sunday, May 26

Steam-Up and Opening

Demonstrations of 1800s steam & gas equipment, garden displays and demos, etc.

Sunday, June 23

Antique & Classic Car Show

Hosted by the Antique and Classic Car Club of Canada.

Saturday, July 6

Whodunit

An evening of mystery and intrigue (tickets sold in advance).

Sunday, July 14

Walking Through Thyme

Explore the use of herbs for culinary, cosmetic and curative uses—displays and workshops.

Saturday, August 10 at 6 P.M.

Settlers at Sunset

"Mutton Veiled as Lamb" drama, humour, romance and music all taking place around an improper wedding.

September 13, 14, 20 & 21

A Spirit Walk

A celebration of Pickering's early settlers, particularly those who became involved in the Rebellion of 1837 (tickets sold in advance).

Sunday, September 29

Fall Family Festival with the Mare's Horseshoe Challenge

Team events, family activities and entertainment.

Saturday, October 5

Greenwood Annual Fine Art Show & Sale

An outdoor art show featuring oils, watercolours, photography, mixed media, etc.

October 19 and 20

History in Action

Featuring the bounty of the harvest, steam threshing, etc.

December 1 & 8

Christmas in the Village

Come join us to celebrate a Victorian Christmas, Germanic traditions, and Hogmanay, the Scottish New Year celebration.



From the Foundation Chair

Progress always seems to be a little slower than we hope but when you look back you can see just how much of it there is. The full restoration of the 1853 Bible Christian Chapel will soon be completed with maintenance to all of the interior and the new chandeliers installed last year and appropriate pews soon to be constructed and installed. Restoration of the Brougham Central Hotel and creation of a new programme center has now been identified by both the Foundation and City staff as a major project with top priority. It is going to be a long and costly undertaking, by far the largest the Foundation has yet been involved in. It couldn't possibly be attempted without the continued support of many of those who receive and read this newsletter. It is with thanks to all those who have contributed their time, effort and funds that the Foundation is able to take on these projects which enhance Pickering Museum Village in its efforts to expand the historical and cultural education of people of all ages in this community.

Thank you!

The Hotel study by André Scheinman has been completed and provided us with a great amount of information on the history of the building and its architecture with recommendations on what is required to save the building and how it could best be displayed to the public. The Advisory Committee, the City and


the Foundation are now working together to develop a plan which will lead to full restoration of the Brougham Central Hotel and provide facilities for the programme activity currently centred there.

With the size and demand of this project we will be calling on you to lend even greater support in the future. We are hoping you will help out and/or attend the various fundraising events we have planned for 2002. These events are addressed elsewhere in this newsletter but they include the *Whodunit* evening, July 6th, the *Fall Family Festival*, September 29th, plus a new special event this year, the *Greenwood Art Show & Sale*, October 5th.

All of these activities contributions go a long way to help us reach the Foundation's goals, but our greatest fundraiser continues to be the Bingos held each Tuesday morning at the Delta Bingo Hall. Yet this remains the one area where we need more help!!! If there is any way you, or someone you know, can give the time, one or two Tuesdays a month to help give new life to the Brougham Central Hotel please contact me at 905•839•4672

or patdunnill@idirect.com.

Thanks again for your past support and let's all work together to improve our museum village.


Patrick Dunnill ☺



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. ☺

Kids in the village

Summer craft programme

Returns in July and August

Half Day Camp

One week \$53, Two weeks \$88

For more information, please call the site at 905•683•8401. ☺

Pickering Museum Village Foundation Membership Levels

Member	\$25
Friend	\$50
Historian	\$100
Pioneer	\$500
Settler	\$1000

Membership forms and tax receipts will be available at our June 13 AGM. ☺

Books at the site

If walls could talk

SUPPORTERS CAN 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. This great souvenir or hostess gift can be bought through Foundation members, at the museum village, Pollikers in Greenwood or Imagine That in Whitby.

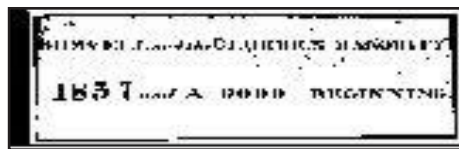
Gifts from the garden

BLOOMERS & BRITCHES tips, recipes and more are packed into this must have book. Now in its second printing. ☺

Herbs

NOW IN ITS third printing features tidbits on herbal use. ☺

We are looking a reprinting our 35th Anniversary recipe collection. ☺



The 1837 Rebellion Banner

LAST SUMMER LAURA Drake and Mary Cook visited the Ontario Archives and were advised by Christine Bourolias that the 1837 Rebellion Banner was in their collection. A copy of the photo was ordered (see front and back shown above). This discovery created quite a stir at the museum village as it was a few weeks before *A Spirit Walk*. Barb Vranic booked an appointment to view and measure the actual banner (approximately: .906 x 2.665 metres or 36" x 104"). Using a template of the banner letters, Barb plans to create new ones (Some of the stitches show in the photo too!). Lyn McGowan also went to OA and she plans to weave a replica banner for the museum village when she locates the correct material and a wide enough loom to hold it. ☺

About Bloomers and Britches

BLOOMERS AND BRITCHES, the heritage gardening club of Pickering Museum Village, was formed in 1999 following a volunteer training workshop on heritage gardening. Interest was sparked among many of the volunteers and under the enthusiastic guidance of Julie Oakes, Head Gardener, the club was started. It has grown from 12 members in its first year, to over 26 members in 2002.

Pickering Museum Village is a living history museum that boasts of 13 buildings ranging from c.1830 to c.1910. Period specific gardens at each house are part of what make the museum's village authentic. Bloomers and Britches research heritage flowers, shrubs, trees, and fruit and vegetable plants to enable them to plan historically accurate beds. Visitors later in the season often get to sample heritage varieties of fruits and vegetables. Excursions to heritage and heirloom nurseries and other historic houses and museums further their knowledge of 19th century gardening. They meet once a week from spring to autumn to plant and maintain the museum village's numerous gardens.

Bloomers and Britches also provided the initiative and physical labour to start and maintain a large garden for students who attend Durham's heritage education centre. Depending on the tour the teacher chooses, many children learn first hand how and where our vegetables come from. Classes are encouraged to return later in the season to the museum village and see how their plants are growing.

Bloomers and Britches has developed a gardening event at the museum village called *Walking through thyme*, an informative event that focuses on the culinary, cosmetic and curative characteristics of herbs. Guest speakers from all over Ontario attend. Last year they hosted a Strawberry Social with Pickering Horticultural Society as part of PHS's Annual Garden Tour. Bloomers and Britches has also created a recipe book, now in its second printing, filled with interesting tidbits called *Gifts from the garden*. Fundraising by the group is primarily by an annual plant sale at the museum village, featuring planned excess growth from the site and ones lovingly transplanted from members gardens. Plant sale proceeds has enabled the group to purchase additional tools and heritage seeds and plants. This year they were also able to donate a 200 place setting of dishes to the museum village for special events and make a donation to Pickering Museum Village Foundation towards the Brougham Central Hotel research project.

Research into areas such as medicinal uses of the herbs in the gardens, and wool dyeing using plant material, has been conducted by Bloomers and Britches and this information has been passed on to museum visitors at events by conducted themed tours of the gardens, and by demonstration of heritage skills. This compiled information has also been made available to education staff members conducting school tours.

Thank you

THE MUSEUM VILLAGE is blessed with many talented and caring volunteers. **Rick Cowan** took the wishes of Bloomers and Britches for an arbour in front of the Miller-Cole House and turned it into reality. In addition to creating a picturesque entrance way to the parlour garden, it will become a popular place for wedding photos.

Benjamin Moore Paints supplied a grant and the material for interior work done last season on the Bible Christian Chapel. Work is now underway to replicate the original pews.

Ontario Power Generation-Pickering Nuclear is a strong financial supporter of the museum village through the Foundation and by their continued promotion of the site to their many employees.

Thanks also to **CHEX TV, KX96, News Advertiser, Ontario Historical Society, PineRidge and Durham Arts Councils, Rogers Cable and The Writers' Circle of Durham Region** for their continuous promotion. If you know of another opportunity for us to promote the site, please let us know. 🌱

Well over 600 hours of care and attention are provided annually by Bloomers and Britches and visitors frequently compliment staff on the gardens. In the spring of 2002, there was a sea of 300 yellow daffodils by the log house welcoming in the season, all thanks to Bloomers and Britches. 🌱

Paint in the Village

by Mike Lindo – Pollikers

FEW OF THE earliest homes in this area were painted, that came later. Paint was expensive and was mainly applied to furniture until later in the century.

Ladies raised in nice homes in England, Ireland and Scotland didn't like the look of the primitive pine furniture built in Upper Canada in the early 1800s and local cabinet-makers couldn't yet reproduce the fine hardwood furniture of the old world. They found that paint improved the looks of the simple pine pieces. Faux finishing became a popular disguise and they became proficient at painting wood to look like mahogany or oak. A base coat of red oxide with a coat of lamp-black swirled over it could be made to look like mahogany and was popular on blanket boxes and cupboards. Different shades of brown could be combed on to simulate

the grain of fine oak. None of this was as easy as painting is today. Paints could take weeks or months to dry and usually had a horrible smell. *One recipe for paint, in 1824, included fresh curds mixed with lime and egg white.* Later on local pigments sources were discovered for paint and clothing dyes but at first most had to be imported and were therefore expensive. Early paint was made up of two parts, the pigment and the vehicle. The vehicle contained binder such as linseed or other oil, solvent (turpentine or alcohol) and a dryer (litharge or monoxide of lead). Early pigments included indigo, alkanet root, white lead, red lead, iron oxide and lamp black and chalk

Later in the century commercial paints were available but many of the early paint formulas were home made and included poisons such as lead, arsenic and mercury and were another contributing factor to the sometimes-short life spans and health problems of the settlers. 🌱



Performing Events for 2002

by Mary Delaney

Red Carnations

SUNDAY, JUNE 23 (as part of the Antique & Classic Car Show)

Comedy ensues when a man and woman meet at a masquerade ball, and arrange a tryst. She will know him by the red carnation in his lapel. But what happens when two men arrive wearing a boutonniere?! *Directed by Bill Sharp.*

Whodunit?

SATURDAY, JULY 6, 5 P.M.

Murder visits Duffins Creek when a religious relic is to be presented to the local minister. Can you figure out whodunit? A fundraiser for the museum village Foundation, tickets must be purchased in advance. Cost includes dinner, theatre and a \$20 tax receipt.

Tickets \$40. *Directed by Bill Sharp.*

Settlers at Sunset

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10TH performance starts at 6 P.M.

"Mutton Veiled as Lamb"



The village is agog and aghast—Mr. Miller's elder brother's widow has breezed into town and snatched up the most eligible bachelor for miles around. And he's decades younger than she is (gasps and cries of shocked disapproval)!!

The expression *mutton dressed as lamb* refers to an older woman trying to pass herself off as younger by wearing youthful clothes. This is a case where the woman goes one step further and is *mutton veiled as lamb!*

A new event to be conducted entirely in First Person (unscripted ad lib acting in an historical context), *Mutton Veiled as Lamb* will be performed by the Backwoods Players at the Pickering Museum Village.

The loosely structured play will take place in 'real time' on a Saturday evening circa 1875. Visitors will enter the home of the groom, busily preparing for the wedding, and of the bride, where the wedding dinner is being cooked over the woodstove. They will be able to attend the wedding, to witness the dinner, to join in the barn dance or church choir practice that follow the wedding—and all the while to eavesdrop on the many dramas, comedies and romances being played out by the inhabitants of this small village. *Written and directed by Mary Delaney and Julie Oakes.*

A Spirit Walk

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, September 13,14, 20 and 21

Tickets go on sale late August for our seventh annual celebration of the early settlers of Pickering Township, particularly those involved in the Rebellion of 1837. Book early to avoid disappointment! *Directed by Larry O'Leary.*

A Dickens of a Christmas

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 and 8

An Upper Canadian twist on an old classic. Performance tickets are \$2 each. *Written and directed by Bill Sharp.*

New Staff:

THE STAFF AT Pickering Museum Village would like to welcome **Marisa Carpino** as the Supervisor, Culture and Recreation, City of Pickering with responsibility for the museum village. Marisa has been with the City for seven years in several capacities, as Kinesiologist/Fitness Instructor at the Recreation Complex and for several years in a supervisor's position with the Culture and Recreation Division. As well as the museum village, Marisa is responsible for supervision of Arts & Culture, Adult/Children/Pre-School/

Seniors Programmes, Youth Programmes, Integration and Camps.

Two new Education Instructors are also on board. **Dianne Schnalzer** comes from an education background, having worked for the Scarborough/Toronto Board of Education for many years. For the last year, she has been one of our very active volunteers.

Jonathan Rucinski is a former Pickering resident who has returned to the City. Currently, he also works with the Oakville Museums and is continuing his studies in the Ontario Museum Association's Certificate Programme.

Welcome to the museum family!

WANTED



THE PICKERING MUSEUM Village is looking for adult volunteers 17 years of age and older for the 2002 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. Volunteers' training workshops offered this season include an Orientation and Refresher Seminar, Techniques for Successful Interpretation as well as:

- ♦ Unmentionables
- ♦ Costumes
- ♦ Needle Arts 101
- ♦ Youth Volunteer Certificate
- ♦ Heritage Gardening
- ♦ Blacksmith/Wood Shop
- ♦ Buttermaking
- ♦ Life in Pickering Township c.1910
- ♦ Christmas in the Village Interpretation

Adult **Volunteer Applications** can be obtained from the museum village or downloaded from the city's web page. Completed applications can be submitted at the Pickering Museum Village 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.

Foundation help wanted



helpers & runners wanted on Tuesdays at Delta Bingo in Pickering.

Experience NOT necessary, be a part of the fundraising

team. Call **Pat Dunnill** at 905-839-4672.



THE VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS

Read all About it!

by Mary Delaney

THE SECOND EDITION of the Backwoods Players' newsletter came with a new look and a new name thanks to several combined creative geniuses. Special thanks to **Mary Cook** for designing a clever graphic for our masthead—**THE VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS**. **Barb Vranic**, everybody's favourite costumes mistress, was featured 'In the Spotlight'.

Membership in Backwoods continues to grow, following the success of several productions in our first season and the proud receipt of the City of Pickering's Award for Arts and Culture for 2001 (thanks to Laura Drake and the Pickering Museum Village Advisory Committee for nominating us). The award was based largely on our annual performance of *A Spirit Walk*, a celebration of the early settlers of Pickering Township involved in the Rebellion of 1837. The production is researched and written by education staff at the museum village.

Backwoods Players is the only museum-based theatrical company in Ontario. A member of both Act-Co. and Theatre Ontario.



Mary Cook ©

Backwoods' mandate is to enhance the education and public events component of the museum village through original drama, vignettes and First Person Interpretation.

New members, both actors and technical support, are always welcome. Membership is \$5 for individuals or \$10 for a family. Members will receive **THE VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS**, free admission

to all Backwoods workshops and advance notice of casting calls.

Backwoods information contacts:

Katrina Pyke, Volunteer Co-ordinator
905•683•8401

or kpyke@city.pickering.on.ca

or **Julie Oakes**, Membership Secretary
905•728•6953

or goakes1@idirect.com

Hooking Makes Sense in Ajax 'Hook-In'

THE 2ND ANNUAL Hook-In will be September 28, 2002, 9:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. at the St. Andrews Friendship Centre at 46 Exeter St. in Ajax (the Seniors' Building). Pickering Museum Village staff will talk about the care of artifacts in the collection.



Mary Cook

Dave Marlowe, Staff, Marie Miller, ARH President and Sue Reaney Past. President

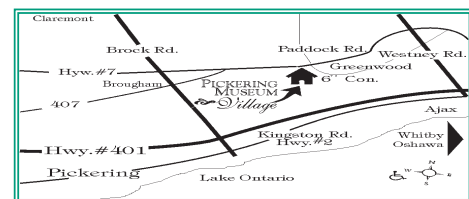
In addition to many works in progress by members and rug hookers from Barrie to Belleville, the primitive heritage rug, the one in the photo and the replica, the one the Ajax Rug Hookers are currently creating will be on display. In the photo, Marie is colour matching areas with yarn samples.



October 5, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Featuring Original Canadian Art

MEET THE ARTISTS and watch them demonstrate their work. There will be an art auction with **Michael Jaensch** from Z-Art, special guest **Mag Ruffman** and lots more. Free admission to the museum village for this event.



Pickering Museum Village is between Brock Road & Westney Road, just off of Hwy 7.

Bits from Bloomers & Britches

by Julie Oakes

“SPRING HAS SPRUNG, the grass is riz, I wonder where the Bloomers is?”

Wonder no more! Bloomers and Britches, PMV’s own heritage gardeners, are hard at work every Tuesday morning, planting, hoeing, weeding and generally beautifying the gardens. After a well-attended (and sometimes back-breaking !) “Turnover Day”, when the gardeners enjoyed the sight of the “host of golden daffodils” that were planted last fall south of the Collins house, had a chance to catch up on each others’ news and worked hard to open the beds, they had a tasty pot luck lunch and swapped garden gossip.

New projects for this year include digging a root vegetable storage pit, for the



interpretation of various storage options open to settlers, and the extension of the existing peony bed at Oddfellows’ Hall. This peony bed was originally planted by Pickering Horticultural Society, and it will be brought around the south side of the building, and planted with more old varieties of peonies.

Bloomers is a friendly group, always happy to welcome new members. We garden Tuesday mornings, rain date Thursday, but some of our gainfully employed gardeners may also be gardening on selected Saturdays in the summer.

For more information call **Julie Oakes** at 905•728•6953 or leave a message in the gift shop at Pickering Museum Village. 🌱

Volunteers

MANY WILL BE shocked to find,
When the day of judgement nears,
That there’s a special place in heaven
Set aside for volunteers.

Furnished with big recliners,
Satin couches and footstools,
Where there are no committee chairmen,
No group leaders or car pools.

No eager team that needs a coach,
No bazaar and no bake sale,

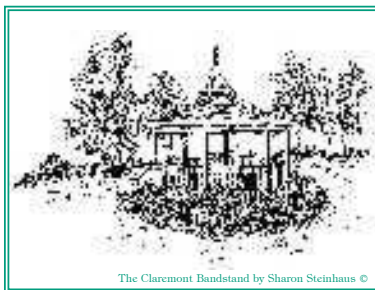
There will be nothing to sample,
Not one thing to fold or mail.

Telephone lists will be outlawed,
But a finger snap will bring,
Cool drinks and gourmet dinners
And treats fit for a king.

You ask, who’ll serve these privileged few,

And work for all they’re worth?

Why, all those who reaped the benefits
And not once volunteered on earth. 🌱



The Claremont Bandstand by Sharon Steinhilber ©

Site rentals

Make your wedding an ‘Historic Event’

BRIDES AND GROOMS, looking for a unique location for their wedding or photos, often choose the museum village. Some dates are still available for the Bible Christian Chapel, Oddfellows’ Hall or Claremont Bandstand. Bookings of the grounds for commercial photo shoots, and family portraits can also be arranged. 🌱

Pickering Museum Village

is operated by the Operations and Emergency Services Department, Culture and Recreation Division

of the CITY OF PICKERING

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

WEB SITE: cityofpickering.com

E-MAIL: museum@city.pickering.on.ca

Regular Hours of Operation

Spring & Fall – Tours by appointment only or during events

June 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. 🌱

Durham’s heritage education centre

Attitudes 1820 Style

by Dave Marlowe

“THIS PAST FEBRUARY, **Lys Laurence** and **Mary Delaney** took on the roles of farmwife and teacher in Upper Canada prior to 1830, in a unique programme designed to introduce students to the roots of attitudes towards Canada’s native peoples. Along with **Lyn McGowan**, they worked together with **Lewis Williams**, the Ethnocultural Equity & Race Relations Officer with the Durham District School Board to develop and present the program.

Students and teachers from every area of the region who were participating in the Board’s STAR program on race relations spent the day in Mrs. Laurence’s log home and Miss Eliza Jamieson’s classroom. While many of the attitudes and comments presented by these two ladies would hardly be considered *politically correct* in today’s Canadian society, they were representative of much of the population of Upper Canada who were of European descent, c.1820.

Following the presentation, students had an opportunity to examine and discuss these attitudes with their teachers and with Lys and Mary and were encouraged to examine present-day attitudes towards various ethnocultural groups.” 🌱

PICKERING JUNCTION NEWS is a Pickering Museum Village Foundation and Advisory Committee publication. Editor Mary Cook, PMV Foundation Secretary.

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

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