



the Lang Register



Fall 2011
Vol. 4, No. 2

BUILDING OUR FUTURE FROM THE FABRIC OF THE PAST

The S.W. Lowry Weaver Shop and Jacquard Loom Interpretive Centre Opens

By Joe Corrigan, Museum Manager

In June of 2003, Sir Sandford Fleming College Museum Management & Curatorship student **Jennifer Shaw** came to Lang Pioneer Village for a three-month internship. One of the requirements of the internship was a research project. After some consideration and consultation with the Museum staff, I suggested she do a feasibility study on the potential benefit to the Museum of the restoration of the Museum's Jacquard loom. Eight years and two months later, we witnessed the culmination of that initiative with the official opening of the S.W. Lowry Weaver Shop and Jacquard Loom Interpretive Centre at our Festival of Textiles event on Saturday, August 13, 2011.



Left: Interior of Weaver Shop



Below left: Festival of Textiles Opening Ceremony, Ontonabee Conservation Authority Vice-Chair Sherry Senis, MPP Jeff Leal and Warden J. Murray Jones



A lot of activity has taken place since our last update on the project in the spring edition of the *Lang Register*. **Jay Peacock** and his team from **Stoney Shores Construction Company** finished off the interior of the building. **Audrey Caryi** and a team of staff and volunteers brought in the Museum's two- and four-harness looms from the Trades Barn and set them up in the Weaver Shop portion of the building. Volunteers **Carrie Osborne**, **Krystyna Perron** and **Jo Mills** used their expertise to determine adjustments needed to the two- and four-harness looms to enable them to operate smoothly and, after **Dave Mitchell** and **Graham Varrin** made the adjustments, they warped the two-harness loom. Work continues in order to get the complex balance of the four-harness loom in working condition. The two Jacquard looms were

brought out of storage in the County Jail and were placed in their respective locations for reassembly. There, the original loom was given conservation treatment and stained by **Basia Baklinski**, and **Graham Varrin** applied linseed oil to the replica loom frame. Master weaver and loom designer **Didier Schwartz** came back to the Museum from Nova Scotia for a week in July and re-assembled the two looms and shared his expertise with the Jacquard team. With some final touches added to the exhibit, the place was ready just in time for the grand opening.

The opening reception was attended by well over 100 invited guests. These included the County of Peterborough Warden **J. Murray Jones**,

continued on page 2

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION SALE

December 12 ~ 16,
10am ~ 4pm

Volunteers get 30% off everything in the Museum Gift Shop

Enjoy a cup of hot cocoa while you browse.

OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTION AWARD

By Laurie Siblock, Special Event and Community Liaison
 In 2007, Lang Pioneer Village created an annual award to recognize the volunteer that had contributed the most hours. Last year, after receiving the award for three years running and realizing that he was the leading candidate once again, **Dave Mitchell** ducked out of the volunteer appreciation lunch just before the awards were presented. When I approached him later to ask where he had gone, he let me know that receiving that award was getting downright embarrassing for him. "Someone else should get that award," he said. Dave was also very humble in 2008 when he was awarded the Ontario Heritage Trust Governor General's Award for Lifetime Achievement for his work to conserve community heritage over a period of more than 25 years. "All right, Dave," I replied, "I can see your point. We'll take a look at reworking that award to spare you the walk to the podium yet again." Dave has contributed a great deal to the Village in the last 12 years he has been volunteering here and has done much to preserve the history of Peterborough County. We appreciate you, Dave, and we appreciate your humbleness too.



Harry van Dompsele
 Photo: Hans Fischer

At Dave's behest, we have reworked the award, once named the Most Volunteer Hours Contributed Award, to now acknowledge outstanding volunteer contributions. We think it's a good idea, because volunteer contributions are not reflected in hours alone. This year we would like to recognize three recipients — one for 2010 and two for 2011. The 2010 Outstanding Volunteer Contribution Award goes to **Harry van Dompsele**. Harry has always been the runner-up for the Most Volunteer Hours Contributed Award. Harry's



Ron Lang, Applefest 2010
 Photo: Carol Siblock



Terry Brown
 Photo: Laurie Siblock

work in the Village has been wide and varied. He has used his carpentry skills to maintain the heritage buildings, build new buildings and make repairs to artifacts. He has interpreted in many of Lang Pioneer Village's buildings, been a fur-trade re-enactor and helped kids scrounge for pirates' gold at the Spooky Halloween event. Currently, he is assisting with the repairs of the floors in the Food Booth and Trades Barn. In 2009, Harry received the Ontario Volunteer Service Award for 30 years of service at Lang Pioneer Village. We're proud to acknowledge your outstanding contributions here at the Village, Harry. Thanks!

The 2011 recipients of the Outstanding Volunteer Contribution Award are **Terry Brown** and **Ron Lang**. Terry and Ron, both fairly new volunteers, have made a big impact at the Village in a short period of time. You've probably noticed how great the Village has been looking this year. That is in large part due to all the painting Terry and Ron have been doing since the spring (read more about this on page 10 in the article "Volunteers Paint the Town"). In addition, Terry and Ron have both come out to many special events to help with lighting and parking. Your contributions have been outstanding, Terry and Ron. Thanks to your efforts, the Village has never looked better.

WEAVER SHOP OPENS *continued from cover*
 Peterborough MPP Jeff Leal, City of Peterborough Mayor Daryl Bennett, Otonabee Conservation Authority Vice-Chair Sherry Senis and Lang Pioneer Village Advisory Committee Chair **Michael Gillespie**. Also in attendance were 10 members of **Peterborough County Council**, representatives of the local and regional tourism organizations as well as **Museum Advisory Committee** members and more. The event was catered by **Black Honey** and visitors were drawn to the opening ceremonies by a bagpiper from the musical group **Appalachian Celtic**. After we heard from the official speakers, Warden Jones presided over the ribbon-cutting ceremony, declaring the S.W. Lowry Weaver Shop exhibit officially open. Five days later the Weaver Shop hosted another formal



Many of Samuel Lowry's descendants attended the Weaver Shop opening. Pictured here are Samuel Lowry's great-nieces—Madeleine Clements and Elinor Gunther. Photo: Lowry family

reception as **Ontario Minister of Tourism and Culture, the Honourable Michael Chan**, paid a visit and spoke to several local tourism stakeholders on his way to open the **Havelock Jamboree**.

Over the course of the 2011 season, the Weaver Shop and Interpretive Centre has hosted more than 2,000 visitors with three receptions, a County Council meeting, seven performances of plays in the **Heritage Celebration in Story and Song** series, two performances of a dance recital by dancers from **New Dance Technology**, and 12 magic-show performances by **J. B. Buttons** during the Spooky Halloween event. The benefits of this new venue for the Museum are only just beginning. It was a long time coming, but the final product is definitely worth the wait.

Ontario Volunteer Service Award Recipients

By Laurie Siblock, Special Event and
Community Liaison

On May 5, 2011, ten Lang Pioneer Village volunteers received the **Ontario Volunteer Service Award**. These awards are given by the provincial government to recognize the volunteers "for their undeniable contributions. The awards are a way to thank volunteers for their continuous years of commitment and dedicated service to a group." Youth volunteers (under the age of 24) are recognized for two or more years of continuous service. Adults are recognized for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30+, 40+, 50+ and 60+ years of continuous service.

Congratulations and thank you to the Lang Pioneer Village volunteers who received the 2011 Ontario Volunteer Service Award!



Carl Doughty — 5 years

Advisory Committee — Carl was an active member of the Lang Pioneer Village Museum Advisory Committee from 2004 to 2010. While he has retired from his Advisory Committee role, Carl stayed on to lend his expertise as a member of the IPM Legacy Building Subcommittee. In prior years, Carl brought his collection of antique milk bottles to display at Lang Pioneer Village special events and to share with the visitors at our Day in the Dairy event. In 2006, Carl was recognized with the **Peterborough Historical Society Charlotte Nichols Award** for his generous contribution to the restoration of the Lang Grist Mill Roof.



Murray Lincoln — 5 years

Interpretation Volunteer — Murray has a surprising number of skills and talents that he has brought to volunteering at Lang Pioneer Village. He interprets in the Carpenter's Shop during school programs and at special events. This past summer Murray has brought his fascinating self-constructed spring-pole lathe for demonstrations outside the Carpenter Shop. He also holds a rapt crowd around him demonstrating tating and lace-making at our Christmas event and the Festival of Textiles. In addition, Murray is a prolific blogger and often blogs about his experience volunteering at Lang Pioneer Village Museum.



Carrie Osborne — 5 years

Interpretation Volunteer — Carrie is a multi-talented individual who demonstrates many traditional skills and crafts in the Village. She interprets and demonstrates tinsmithing with her husband, Allin, demonstrates weaving on a two-harness loom, and shares her knowledge of Victorian paper pin-prick crafts, crochet, tating, embroidery and corn-husk crafts. Carrie, who is always enthusiastic about helping where help is needed, has also assisted with supporting outreach events, setting up of the Village in the spring and prepping the apple crisps for Applefest.



Allin Osborne — 5 years

Interpretation Volunteer — When our longtime tinsmith **Gord Vidler** passed away, Allin and his wife, Carrie, came forward to fill Gord's big shoes. Allin took a tinsmithing course from the Vidlers, and learned the interpretation of the Tinsmith Shop. He now interprets and demonstrates tinsmithing at special events.



The Harley Family: Roger, Julie, James and Emily — 8 years (5-year award)

Farm Animal Provider — The Harley family has been involved with Lang Pioneer Village since 2003. They have loaned the Village their pigs, sheep, goats and chickens to enliven Lang with livestock. They have also brought additional animals to special events and in particular have contributed livestock to the Live Nativity re-enactment at the Christmas by Candlelight event.



Leona Jackson — 15 years

Special Events Volunteer — For 15 years now Leona has helped with the organization and registration at the Smoke & Steam Show and has assisted with the antique tractor pulls. She helps with the special events in many areas, including the food booth and beverage sales, selling 50/50 tickets and working to ensure that other volunteers are well taken care of in the volunteer appreciation area. Leona has also taught knitting to seasonal staff during the training period before we open for the season.



Photos: Hans Fischer, Laurie Siblock
and the Harley Family



Youth Nomination: Hailey Doughty — 7 years

Interpretation Volunteer — Since she was nine years old, Hailey has come to Lang Pioneer Village almost every Sunday to interpret at the Milburn with her grandmother, **Joyce Williams**, and more recently with her good friend **Amelia Pinn**. She has learned and demonstrated knitting, crochet, embroidery, wool cleaning and carding and has begun to learn spinning. Hailey also bakes and has demonstrated how laundry and lawn mowing was done in the 19th century. In addition, she runs children's activities at our Spooky Halloween event.

NEIL ALLEN RETIREES

By Joe Corrigan, Museum Manager

I met Neil in the Main Gallery of the Visitor Centre at about 3 pm on February 5, 2003. I was being interviewed by **Barb van Vierzen**, Interim Manager at the time, for an internship related to my Museum Management Course at **Fleming College** and she took me on a tour of the Visitor Centre. Neil and volunteer **David Mitchell** were working on the "Home Sweet Home" exhibit, which profiled pioneer interior decorating. I realize now that, as I write this, I'm the same age that Neil was then and that he was about as far along in his career at Lang Pioneer Village as I am now. He was 8 1/2 years into a 17-year career as our Premises Coordinator. It's not easy to sum up the contributions of a 17-year career in a few sentences, but here goes.

For those of you not familiar with the role of Premises Coordinator at Lang Pioneer Village, Neil has had to be a jack-of-all-trades, many of which haven't been practiced for decades. Lang, as a living history site, presents many challenges, with 10 hectares of property, a park area full of grass to cut and trees to look after, 25-plus historic buildings, a working water-powered grist mill, shingle mill, blacksmith shop, tinsmith shop, steam engine and more.

Not only are there the heritage buildings, fencing and artifacts to look after, but there is also the infrastructure associated with the Visitor



Neil Allen, IPM Legacy Night Photo: Laurie Siblock

Centre's heating, plumbing, electrical and alarm systems and a water system that extends through the Village. A lot of these systems are almost as old as the Village itself. Probably more times than he cares to remember, Neil has had to make his way to the Village on off-hours to deal with an alarm that's gone off or work late to solve a problem with the water system or some other troublesome facet of Village operations. In addition to all these technical skills, the Premises Coordinator has to have the ability to get along with and direct the work of the Museum's volunteers and summer staff.

During his time here at Lang Pioneer Village, Neil has made a major contribution to the success of the Museum. His achievements include initiating and organizing the Father's Day Smoke & Steam event for the last 15 years. Over the last three years this event has had average attendance of 1,000. In 1996 he also initiated and organized the Antique & Classic Car Show, which over last three years has had average attendance of 1,200. Neil has worked on

literally hundreds of special events over the course of the 17 years he has spent here at the Museum.

Neil won the County of **Peterborough Award for Volunteering** in 2006 when he worked on the **2006 IPM Committee** along with other community activities. Neil was also a member of the team when Lang Pioneer Village won the County's **Innovation Award** in 2004. It was Neil who came up with the idea for the 12' x 30' portable stage that was built in 2004 and has been an asset in staging our special events here at the Village ever since. He had a big role to play in the creation and building of several structures here at the Village, including the Ice House, Smoke House, Ash House, Cider Mill and, ultimately, the S.W. Lowry Weaver Shop and Jacquard Loom Interpretive Centre. That's not to mention all the exhibits that he has worked on with **Audrey Caryi**, Museum Specialist, over the years.

One thing I'll always appreciate about working with Neil was his good-natured and practical approach to his work and the people around him. He always demonstrated patience with staff and volunteers when instructing them on various aspects of Village operations.

Neil, we thank you for your hard work and dedication, the many times you interrupted what you were doing at home to attend to the needs of the Village, your passion for the Museum, your contribution to its success, your ability to connect with staff, volunteers and visitors, and especially your friendship. We wish you all the best as you enjoy a well-earned retirement!

In Memory of Gerry Murphy

By Joe Corrigan, Museum Manager



Gerry Murphy 2006
Photo: Carol Siblock

I still remember the first time I heard the steam-engine whistle back in my first season here at Lang Pioneer Village in the spring of 2003. Nothing evokes the 19th-century "age of steam" like the high-pitched sound of a steam engine purging high-pressure steam and chugging slowly around the Village. For many years,

our Sawyer Massey steam engine was brought to life by long-time volunteer **Gerry Murphy**.

Sometime after Gerry retired from **General Electric** in the 1990s, he met Lang's steam engine operator, Frank Doris, in a machine-shop course at **Fleming College**. Frank got him interested in joining him at the Village to assist with operating the steam engine. He enjoyed it so much that he got his steam engine operator licence and began operating the machine on his own in 1998. Gerry was a fixture at our special events for almost 10 years, and later his wife, **Euris**, began volunteering as well. I enjoyed many a conversation with Gerry and very much admired his soft-spoken and thoughtful nature.

Gerry was dedicated to his role as steward of the steam engine and made many suggestions about how to best preserve this important artifact. Gerry was able to pass his knowledge of the operation of the steam engine on to other volunteers and gradually stepped back from his role at the Village a couple of years ago.

It was with sadness that we learned of Gerry's passing on August 7 at the Peterborough Regional Health Centre at 88 years of age. Our sympathies go out to Euris and the rest of Gerry's family. Our community here at Lang has lost a dedicated volunteer, a gentleman and a true friend.



The 2006 IPM 5th Anniversary Legacy Night Gala Reunion and Fundraising Dinner

By Joe Corrigan, Museum Manager & Laurie Siblock, Special Event and Community Liaison

In October 2007, Lang Pioneer Village Museum was the grateful recipient of a legacy donation in the amount of \$75,000 from the 2006 International Plowing Match. Mr. Norm Blodgett, IPM Chair, made the ceremonial cheque presentation at Lang Pioneer Village's Applefest event that year. The funds were intended to go towards a significant building project that would commemorate the 2006 IPM, be consistent with the values of the IPM and meet the needs of the Museum. Those funds were held in reserve, pending the determination of an appropriate building project. As the Museum was working on both the construction of the Cider Mill (completed in 2008) and the S.W. Lowry Weaver Shop and Jacquard Loom Interpretive Centre (completed in 2011), the IPM project was put on hold.

It was August of 2010 when Laurie Siblock, Special Event and Community Liaison, and I



John & Eileen Cockburn, Joe Corrigan, Marg & Jim Glenn
Photo: Laurie Siblock

met with Marg Glenn and Marg Telford to discuss their idea for holding a 5th Anniversary Reunion for the volunteers of the 2006 International Plowing Match at Lang Pioneer Village. Over the months that followed, the planning sessions continued and it was proposed that the event be used as an opportunity to raise funds for the IPM Legacy project. The idea was brought before the Lang Pioneer Village Museum Advisory Committee, who considered the ramifications of this proposal for the strategic direction of the Museum. It was agreed that using the 5th Anniversary Reunion as a fundraising

opportunity for the project was a good idea. The only problem was that there was no building to fundraise for. An IPM Legacy Building Project Subcommittee was formed, consisting of Norm Blodgett (Chair), Dave Nelson, Ron Windover, Jim Glenn, Terry Low, Dave Mitchell and Carl Doughty, with staff support provided by Chelsea McKelvey, Audrey Caryi and myself. The Subcommittee met several times between April and August 2011. Several

Front View of Proposed Storage Barn
Illustration: Audrey Caryi



continued on back cover

A New Face in the Village: Graham Varrin Joins Our Team

By Joe Corrigan, Museum Manager

When my boss, Sheridan Graham, and I first learned this spring that long-time Premises Coordinator Neil Allen had decided he wanted to retire from Lang this fall, it caught us a bit by surprise. In retrospect, I should have seen it coming when, after his last birthday, Neil kept asking me to remind him of the lyrics to a Beatles song — "Will you still need me, will you still feed me, when I'm 64?"

The Premises Coordinator role is not an easy one to recruit for. The Village presents many challenges with its size and scope, and the fact that it focuses on preserving a diverse range of 19th-century technology. Beyond technical skills, the job requires the ability to work with all types of people — staff, volunteers and visitors alike — to be aware of and enforce health and safety priorities, to direct teams in project work and to coordinate the

logistical arrangements for a multitude of special events over the course of the season.

We were indeed very fortunate to hire Graham Varrin as Neil's replacement. Graham has 12 years' experience as a carpenter. He has worked for both private and unionized companies over his working career. Graham graduated from George Brown College in General Carpentry with honours and obtained his "Red Seal" interprovincial licence as a General Carpenter. For seven years he owned and operated a residential construction company with up to eight employees and sub-trades and, as demonstrated over the past several months here at Lang, Graham possesses a broad knowledge of all residential construction trades.

Recognizing the complexity and unique nature of the infrastructure at Lang Pioneer Village, Peterborough County Council allowed for an overlap



Graham Varrin, 2011 Photo: Hans Fischer

period for Neil Allen to pass on his knowledge of this challenging site to Graham. Graham has learned quickly and is now a key member of our team. He has already experienced a full season of special events and been involved in many maintenance projects during his time at Lang. The staff and volunteers of Lang Pioneer Village welcome you, Graham, and wish you every success in the months and years ahead.





Above: Harry & Janet van Dompsele
Photo: Shawna Foxton



Above: Volunteers on Apple Crisp Making Day Photo: Laurie Siblock

Right: Hayley Nabuurs, Spooky Halloween 2011 Photo: Dawn Knudsen

Below left: Geraldine Heffernan & assistant sheep shearer,
Festival of Textiles 2011
Photo: Ralph Colley

Below: Andrew Ward, Corn Roast 2011
Photo: Larry Keeley

49th Regiment of Foot,
Smoke & Steam Show 2011
Photo: Didi Anderson



Ross Johnston, Festival of Textiles 2011 Photo: Ralph Colley

Catherine Gimies,
Smoke & Steam Show 2011
Photo: Didi Anderson



Neil Allen & Marg Telford,
IPM Legacy Night Gala
Photo: Laurie Siblock



Trevor Merriam, Peter Nelson and John McIntyre cutting wood
Photo: Laurie Siblock



Jackson, Zachary, Shawna, Maia, Bernette,
Christmas by Candlelight carollers 2010



Top far left: Patty McKeown,
Car Show 2011
Photo: Hans Fischer

Above left: Jewel Hamshaw &
Claire Doris, Corn Roast 2011
Photo: Jake Walling, SNAP

Above right: John Hoffman, Michael
Ketemer, Glen Caradus, Mark Finnan,
The Corktown Man 2011

Left: Mary Johnston, Applefest 2011
Photo: Dawn Knudsen



Above: Murry Lincoln, Christmas by
Candlelight 2010
Photo: Larry Keeley



Above right: Rob Howat,
Smoke & Steam Show 2011
Photo: Larry Keeley

Al Kirby, Carrie Osborne, Jim Yates, Dominion Day 2011
Photo: Larry Keeley

Joyce Jones, Corn Roast 2011
Photo: Dennis Halstead



Fenian Raid Reenactment,
Dominion Day 2011
Photo: Larry Keeley



Rian & Nantes Nel, Corn Roast 2011
Photo: Jake Walling, SNAP



Michael Gillespie, Smoke and Steam Show 2011
Photo: Dawn Knudsen

Fleming College Intern Preserves Peterborough County Heritage One Textile at a Time

By Rhonda Akey, Collections Intern

I am presently completing an unpaid internship at Lang Pioneer Village that runs from September 6 until December 16. This is the last stage of my college training for the **Collections Conservation and Management** program offered by **Fleming College**. They say you should choose a career in something you love. Though this is not my first career, working in a museum definitely fulfills my long-standing passion for history.

As you can imagine, documenting and assessing the thousands of artifacts in Lang Pioneer Village Museum's collection takes time. Therefore, my internship has focused on documenting, assessing and digitizing the large textiles in the Museum's collection. The opening of the new **S.W. Lowry Weaver Shop and Jacquard Loom Interpretive Centre** has prompted a need to verify how many examples of Jacquard textiles presently exist within the collection. This will also help determine what types of examples are lacking within the collection, in order to help guide the Museum if a Jacquard textile is offered for acquisition in the future. Through my work I have uncovered several Jacquard textiles, some of which are exceptionally beautiful and unique pieces. In the future these wonderful examples of Jacquard loom weaving may be



Rhonda Akey, Fleming College Collections Conservation and Management student
Photo: Laurie Siblock

on display in the Weaver Shop.

Large textiles, such as quilts, blankets, coverlets and table runners, are typically stored in museums on big rolls like the thick cardboard tubes used by the carpet industry. To protect the rolled textiles from any undesirable chemicals that may leach from the rolls over time, we, as conservators, wrap the tubes in an inert archival-friendly plastic.

It is also preferable to store artifacts in as clean a condition as possible. However, washing them in a washing machine can damage the weakened and often brittle fibres of old fabric. Instead, I vacuum the textiles through a fine screen, which protects the fibres while pulling out the dust and debris.

The textiles are then rolled with acid-free tissue paper interleaved between the layers. It is preferable that each roll contain a maximum of only two to three textiles. The weight of too many textiles can stress the

fabric and eventually cause damage. The entire roll is then wrapped with unbleached cotton sheeting, which acts as a dust cover. This also provides a barrier from harmful UV light, which can fade and weaken the textiles, as well as air pollutants that ultimately accelerate the breakdown of the fibres. It is best to suspend the rolls by inserting a rod through the hollow tube. Any pressure points on the textiles can eventually weaken and damage the fibres.

The number of precautions we take to care for these articles may seem excessive. However, it is important to remember that as the years pass, it has become increasingly difficult to find 19th-century textiles. The conservation efforts we make today are meant to ensure the survival of these artifacts so future generations can continue to enjoy them.

I am incredibly thankful to the staff at Lang Pioneer Village for giving me the opportunity to be a part of the continued preservation of Peterborough County's heritage.

From Wax and Corks to Rims and Discs:

A Brief History of the Development of Fruit Jars By Renee Homiak, Records Management Intern



I was recently at a friend's house, going through some of the things that had accumulated in the basement over time. Tucked in a corner under the stairs was an array of fruit jars with different types of lids and closures. I started wondering how canning came to be and how we ended up with the familiar Bernardin jars and lids my roommate uses today. How did we go from salting and packing foods in barrels to jamming them in glass Mason jars?

Canning came about as a result of the need for food preservation for military troops. At the end of the 18th century, the

French government offered a reward of 12,000 francs for anybody who could develop a viable food-preservation process. M. Nicolas Appert developed a process that involved the application of high heat along with the exclusion of air from a sealed glass container. The heat killed any bacteria and sealing the container prevented any other contamination. Unlike the earlier ceramic and metal containers used, glass was more easily manufactured, is impermeable and is inert with almost all food product it holds, ensuring there is no off-flavouring into the food.

The first canning jars were referred to as "wax sealers." They were hand-blown and used a combination of wax and cork or leather to seal the contents into the jar. This sealing method proved to be time-consuming and often costly, especially as the wax could not be reused. John Landis Mason, a

continued on page 11

Costuming Characteristics of Womenswear at the End of the 19th Century

By Janet vanDompsele, Costumer

"The fitted skirt and blouse of 1890 introduced a new phase in dress design. Women were becoming more independent. For the few who were launching out into the professions, and many more who were taking up active outdoor sports, the costume, with its plain skirt and loose blouse was, for those days, a practical outfit." — from *The Cut of Women's Clothes, 1600 – 1930* by Norah Waugh.

In the 1890s, the fashion for women's waists was much smaller than at any other time. To emphasize this, the hems of skirts were wide and the waist and hips fitted, paired with ever-expanding sleeve tops, epaulettes, shoulder frills and wide revers.

With the large sleeves, coats were difficult to wear so it became fashionable to use capes, anywhere from elbow length to three-quarters length.



Skirts were generally gored with some fullness in the form of gathers or inverted pleats at the back. Artificial padding (e.g., bustle pad) was no longer used. Daywear skirts were floor-length. Trained hems were reserved for evening wear.

All day dresses and blouses had high collars. Only evening wear had low necklines



Left: Miranda Forstall models early to mid-1890s suit

Photo: Laurie Siblock

Right: Miranda Forstall models early to mid-1890s skirt and blouse

Photo: Laurie Siblock

and short sleeves, and these were often puffed.

Visitors to the Village will find examples of womenswear from the end of the century worn in the Menie General Store, Glen Alda Church, South Lake School and the S.W. Lowry Weaver Shop.

Patience Pays Off: Young volunteer fulfills dream she's had since she was four years old



By Catherine Charron, Youth Interpreter

This year, having turned 12, I applied for the Lang Pioneer Village Youth Interpreter Program to satisfy my interest in the subject of pioneers. I have waited since I was four years old for this opportunity. When I was accepted I was overcome with joy—it was a dream come true.

Catherine Charron 2011

Photo: Hans Fischer

The first day was exciting. Even though it was only the tour of the Village, we still got to be dressed up (which, admittedly, was what got me interested in the concept of entering the program when I was only four) and I got to meet so many people—staff as well as visitors.

The interpreting days were even more enjoyable because I love interpreting. I have learned so much history from my interpretations throughout the Village and I've also learned many skills. Some of the skills I have learned include fire safety while working in the Fitzpatrick House, some redwork embroidery, being able to count fast in my head while selling pies in the Keene Hotel and learning how to weave in the Weaver Shop using an old-fashioned table loom. And I got to learn all of these things while wearing a time-period dress!

My experiences at Lang Pioneer Village are unforgettable. I hope to volunteer next year, as well as getting a job at the Village later on. I recommend the program for other kids and teens who are interested—it was so much fun! I also want to thank all the staff and volunteers who helped me with my interpretations throughout the weeks!



Lang Pioneer Village is now on...



&

YouTube

Receive special-event updates, share photos and videos, get to know other volunteers and much, much more!

Visit www.facebook.com/langpioneervillage and www.youtube.com/langpioneervillage for details!

VOLUNTEERS PAINT THE TOWN

By Laurie Siblock, Special Event and Community Liaison



Painting the Print Shop

Over the course of the summer, the Village has been transformed from looking a little weather-worn and weary to its current livelier, brighter appearance. We have volunteers **Terry Brown** and **Ron Lang** to thank for that as they have literally painted the town! They started in the spring by painting the Douro Town Hall. This involved scraping down old peeling paint from the windows and siding, and laying down fresh layers, installing scaffolding to reach the highest levels. Before the paint had barely dried on



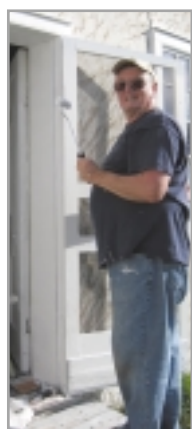
that, they were eyeing up the next place in the Village that needed a facelift. They have since painted the Register Print Shop, the Cheese Factory, the doors, trim and windows on the Schoolhouse, the outdoor washrooms, and the main-floor windows of the Keene Hotel.

"These guys really took a lot of initiative on this project," says Premises Coordinator **Graham Varrin**. "They would finish one building and were right ready to jump onto doing the next thing that needed painting. They went through 26 gallons of paint. That's quite a bit of paint for two guys to spread over a short period of time."

Ron and Terry have put a lot of time and energy into making the Village look great and they will be recognized for their efforts as the recipients of the 2011 Outstanding Volunteer Contribution Award.

Both volunteers continue to have their sights set on what needs to be done next. Terry has been working with Graham Varrin, **Trevor Merriam** and volunteers **Harry van Dompsele** and **Dave Mitchell** to replace floorboards in the Food Booth and Trades Barn.

Ron has just completed the chainsaw certification course, along with volunteers **John McIntyre**, **Ray Vandervelde** as well as staff Trevor Merriam and Graham Varrin. Therefore, he will now be able to help volunteer **Peter Nelson** with the chainsaw work to keep the wood stocked to heat the buildings during the school programs and Christmas by Candlelight event.



Terry Brown literally painting the town

Photo: Laurie Siblock

Sheridan Graham Wins Peterborough Examiner Businesswoman of the Year Award

By Joe Corrigan, Museum Manager

If you receive an email from **Sheridan Graham**, you will notice a quotation by Napoleon Hill beneath her signature that says, "It is literally true that you can succeed best and quickest by helping others to succeed first." Having worked closely with Sheridan for a few years now, I can attest to the fact that those are words she lives by. Sheridan's strong work ethic is complemented by a generous nature that sees her go out of her way to help others achieve their goals. Much of the development we've seen here at the Village over the past few years is a direct result of Sheridan's efforts, knowledge and savvy ability to solve problems and get things done. In the past two years, her oversight of the complex construction of the **S.W. Lowry**



Laurie Siblock, Sheridan Graham and Joe Corrigan at the 2009 Volunteer Appreciation Lunch Photo: Didi Anderson

Weaver Shop and Jacquard Loom

Interpretive Centre saw the Museum's goal of erecting a unique and important new building to its successful completion and opening on August 13, 2011.

In addition to her work on behalf of the Museum, Sheridan, who is the General Manager of Strategic Services and Corporate Projects for the County of Peterborough, has a wide-ranging list of responsibilities. She

played a major part in the County's development of a broadband network and is currently serving as Director of Procurement for the **Eastern Ontario Regional Network**, which occupies about 25 percent of her time these days. In recognition of these and many other important contributions to the Greater Peterborough Region, Sheridan Graham was named **Peterborough Examiner Businesswoman of the Year for 2011**. It should be noted that she was also a finalist for the 2010 award.

Sheridan, the staff and volunteers of Lang Pioneer Village are proud of you, your achievements and your well-deserved recognition. It is a pleasure and a privilege to work with you.



HISTORY OF FRUIT JARS

continued from page 8

tinsmith from New York, found a way of cutting a continuous thread into tin lids and glass jars that would allow a lid to be screwed onto the jar. The new jar-and-lid combination could be more easily sealed and opened, and was more cost-efficient as they could both be reused. The design was patented on November 30, 1858. Because of the patent date, many jars have this date on them, but this does not reflect the actual date the jar was manufactured.

Mason's lids had one drawback — they were metal. Although the lids had a porcelain or zinc liner, the metal lids could become rusted, contaminating and possibly affecting the flavour of the foods. Henry William Putnam worked out this kink by developing the "Lightning Jar" in 1882. This container used a glass inverted-cup lid that sat on a rubber gasket on a shelf just



below the jar's rim. A wire clamp is attached to the jar on the shoulders and clamped into place on top of the glass lid. When the clamp is properly in place, an effective seal is created. These new jars became popular because they were very quick and easy to use, they were reusable and employed a glass lid instead of a metal lid, which prevented metal from ever touching the food.

Fruit jars evolved, with other designs coming into use and disappearing because of practicality, expense, and trial and error. One stop on the evolutionary stage of canning jars involved a combination of Mason's screw lid and Putnam's

glass lid. A rubber gasket was placed between the two pieces of glass, and a tin ring screwed onto the jar, effectively sealing the contents into the jar without a chance that they would touch metal.

The modern-day canning jars that we are all familiar with came from an invention by Alexander H. Kerr in 1915. He improved an earlier idea that involved a thin metal disk with a permanent composition gasket on it. He used this metal disk in combination with a threaded metal ring. During hot-water processing, the metal disk was attached to the jar and held down by the metal ring, effectively sealing in the contents. Although the design has been slightly altered over the years, we are still using the same idea for preserves today. I think the next time my roommate gets frustrated with her modern jars and lids, I'll remind her of the corks and wax used in yesteryears!

LANG'S VISION, MISSION & MANDATE

VISION:	To provide each and every visitor to Lang Pioneer Village with a living history experience of exceptional quality.
MISSION:	To preserve, promote and authentically recreate the rural history of Peterborough County.
MANDATE:	To be a vibrant living history museum that engages our community and actively preserves our cultural heritage in order to provide an interactive and educational visitor experience.

A TASTE OF TIME: A Heritage Recipe Collection By Elizabeth King, Interpreter



Shauna Foxton and Elizabeth King
Photo: Courtesy of Culinary Tourism

We were recently asked about the oatmeal cookies that have been routinely baked and served in the Keene Hotel for years. "Did the pioneers really make oatmeal cookies? Did they even have oatmeal like what we use today?" Simple questions really—or maybe not.

With the recent surge of interest in culinary tourism, culinary historians are increasingly faced with wonderful questions like these. They challenge the assumptions that have been misrepresenting historical food in museums, books and film for years. In accordance with the Lang Pioneer Village Museum mission, "To preserve, promote and authentically recreate the rural history of Peterborough County," we

have a responsibility and a passion for seeking out these answers.

It is with this in mind that we undertake a new project here at Lang Pioneer Village. To better ensure the authenticity of our recipes and live up to our mission, we are reviewing our culinary offerings, starting with a thorough examination of the recipes used in each of our buildings. Analyzing each one, we will seek to understand where the recipe came from, when the ingredients were developed, when they became available in Upper Canada and then later in rural Peterborough County. We want to be sure we can verify that the recipe is appropriate to the time period of the building in which the culinary demonstration is taking place. Starting with primary sources of the period and moving through secondary sources available to us now, we are undertaking this recipe review to ensure that we are providing a culinary tourism experience that is both

exceptional and authentic.

It's a big task, one that will take time and a great deal of research. A food-history timeline, recipe books that can be used in each of the specific homes in the Village and a practice run are all part of this project. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact me at Lang Pioneer Village. We could use help in all steps of the process, right through to the taste-test phase (Yum!).

Oh, and by the way, the pioneers did not make oatmeal cookies, at least not as far as the research has shown thus far. And no, they did not have rolled oats like those we use today. The pioneers used coarse oatmeal, which was made by grinding the wheat kernels between large millstones, a method used for centuries and originating in Scotland. Steel-cut oats and rolled oats, which are typical of "modern cooking," were developed and available locally only towards the last quarter of the 19th century.



concepts and designs were considered and the final proposal was a display and storage barn with a restoration workshop. The building plans were transformed by Audrey Caryi into an artist's conceptual drawing, which was presented at the **IPM Legacy Night Gala** on August 28, 2011.

The night was a huge success, with over 250 people in attendance. A net of \$6,000 was raised for the new building with ticket sales, auctions and donations taken into account. On behalf of the Museum and the **IPM Gala Night Organizing Committee**, I'd like to extend our appreciation to **Darling Insurance** for their donation of \$1,000 and **Winslow Gerolamy Motors Limited** for their \$200 sponsorship. Thanks also to **KRUZ FM**, **The Wolf** and **CHEX TV** for their media sponsorship of the event. Without the efforts of the IPM Gala Night Organizing Committee and all the volunteers, this great evening wouldn't have been possible. Our thanks go out to organizers **Marg Glenn**, **Marg Telford**, **Norm Blodgett**, **John Cockburn**, **Larry Jinkerson**, **John Dunford**, **Bernard Recker** and **Brenda McCarrell**, as well as all the volunteers who helped make the event possible – the **Live and Silent Auction Committee** and auctioneer **Mark Stanley**, the **Designing Women** who made the site look great, **Eileen Cockburn** and **Pat Armstrong** for organizing the Photo Memory Room and raffle ticket sales, the **Junior Farmers** for mail-out and greeting services, the **Lions Centre** for running the



Rear View of Proposed Storage Barn Illustration: Audrey Caryi

bar, the performers (**Al Kirby**, **Bill Olsen** and **Gord McGee & the Huggy Bear Band**) and sound technician **Roy Craft**, and the staff and volunteers of the Museum who got involved. Thank you all for contributing to the success of the evening.

MANY THANKS TO LANG PIONEER VILLAGE'S 2011 SEASON SPONSORSHIP PARTNERS!

Event Sponsors:



Media Sponsors:



Season Sponsor:



Congratulations to the City of Peterborough, Peterborough Museum and Archives, and Fleming College Arts and Heritage Programs for receiving the Ontario Museum Association Award of Excellence for Corporate Service!

"The City of Peterborough's municipal museum, The Peterborough Museum & Archives (PMA), is the only museum in Canada that serves openly as a college campus. The opportunity for Fleming College students to learn museological and conservation theory and practice in situ is an unmatched and extraordinary asset. The PMA has served as the primary host site for Fleming College's Museum Management and Curatorship and Collections Conservation and Management programs since 1994, with ad hoc partnerships going back to the 1970s. The value of learning in a museum setting; interacting and engaging with museum audiences, collections, and staff, is invaluable to the students."

Ontario Museum Association E-news Alert, October 31, 2011

Lang Pioneer Village Museum often benefits from the Fleming College Museum Management and Curatorship and Collections Conservation and Management program, because many of their students select Lang Pioneer Village Museum as a place to gain workplace experience during the internship component of the program. In addition, recent graduates of the program have been hired on a contract basis to complete specific projects. **Renee Homiak**, a graduate of the program, is our current contract Records Management Intern; **Rhonda Akey**, a program student, is completing a collections internship; and **Allison Brown**, also a student in the Fleming program, is volunteering in the collections area and is working with Rhonda to document our Jacquard textiles (see article titled "Fleming College Intern Preserves Peterborough County Heritage One Textile at a Time," page 8).



Fall 2011 Vol. 4, No. 2

EDITOR: Laurie Siblock

PROOFREADERS: Stuart Ross, Karis Regamey,
Rosemary Davidson

GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Brenda Mahaffy

ILLUSTRATIONS: Audrey Caryi

CONTRIBUTORS: Rhonda Akey, Catherine Charron,
Joe Corrigan, Renee Homiak, Elizabeth King,
Laurie Siblock, Janet van Dompsele,



*Building Our Future
from the Fabric of the Past*