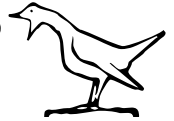




the Lang Register



Spring 2011
Vol. 4, No. 1

BUILDING OUR FUTURE FROM THE FABRIC OF THE PAST

The History of Samuel Wallace Lowry and His Looms

By Lois Watson, Peterborough Handweavers & Spinners Guild

Prior to the invention of the Jacquard loom attachment in 1805, the weaving of intricate pictorial patterns was an extremely complicated business. To produce the textiles, both a weaver and a drawboy, who operated the cords that lifted the pattern warp threads, were needed. But **Joseph Marie Jacquard's** device used holes punched in a string of pasteboard cards to control the production of each individual pattern, eliminating the need for the drawboy. The ensuing opposition by other weavers to this labour-saving loom at first caused riots, but its rapid adoption by manufacturers ensured its inventor a respected place in industrial history.

About 80 years later, across the ocean in a small village in rural Ontario, a young man named **Samuel Wallace Lowry** acquired two looms and enough knowledge to set himself up as a professional weaver. One loom was a simple, maple, two-shaft loom with string heddles. The other was a complex loom,



Samuel Lowry

meant for home use, but fitted with a Jacquard head.

Born in 1862 into a family of ten children in the village of Warsaw, Dummer Township, Samuel was the son of **John Victor Garner Lowry**, a shoemaker who had emigrated from Ireland with his parents in 1829, and **Eliza Campbell**, who was born in Montreal. Starting in 1884 in his shop in Warsaw, Samuel wove mostly blankets, in particular grey horse blankets, for customers in the area. Early in 1888, he moved his looms and set up his business downtown in the nearby city of Peterborough. In the *Peterborough Examiner* of 1894, his ad stated: "Weaving! Rag carpet in white or colored warp, at reduced rates during the rest of the season. Plain and Fancy Flannel Blankets, etc. Ingrain Carpet in great variety of patterns, cheaper than ever before. Call and inspect." The *Business Directory of 1895* listed him as "S. W. Lowry, Carpet Manufacturer and General Weaver. Union and All-Wool

Continued on page 2

Historical Importance of the Jacquard Loom

By Joe Corrigan, Museum Manager



Jacquard presents his loom to Napoleon

The Jacquard loom revolutionized the textile industry and led to the birth of the computer age. Here are some intriguing facts about it:

- **Joseph Marie Jacquard** (1752-1834) invented the loom in France between 1801 and 1806.
- The weaving industry was transformed overnight by the invention's increased productivity. The output of a Jacquard loom was about 24 times its predecessors'. That's the equivalent of the difference in speed between a motor car and a supersonic jet.
- The Jacquard loom represents the first practical use of binary code in industry. The loom employed punch cards, the technology that enabled the programming of the early 20th-century computers.
- The cards allowed Jacquard to regulate the pattern and improve consistency in his weaving.
- The Jacquard loom is considered a major development of the Industrial Revolution. The development of the Jacquard loom was not without controversy

as it caused unemployment, which led to civil unrest and the burning of some of Jacquard's early looms.

- Jacquard was awarded the Legion of Honour by **Napoleon** for his contribution to French society.

If you would like to contribute to the S. W. Lowry Weaver Shop and Jacquard Loom Interpretive Centre fundraising campaign, please contact **Joe Corrigan, Museum Manager, at 705-295-6694 or visit our website, www.langpioneervillage.ca.**

Ingrain Carpets in great variety of Beautiful Patterns. Rag Carpets, Plain and Fancy Flannel, Blankets, etc., kept for sale or wove to order.”

Samuel’s two-shaft loom would have been used for making the rag carpets and simple plain-weave blankets and flannel fabric. From his advertising, it appears that Samuel’s Jacquard loom was being used for the weaving of ingrain carpeting, the most common and affordable type of floor covering of this time. It was a richly colourful textile, reversible, with highly contrasting hues and layered patterns. Ingrain has been described as having “vivacity and sparkle — a kind of woven pointillism” (Deborah E. Kraak, *Magazine Antiques*, Jan. 1996). It was woven in strips, approximately 27 inches wide, seamed together and often tacked to the floor. Customers ordered by room size and had a choice of a few patterns, mostly in red and black. Flat-surfaced, ingrain lost popularity when more durable pile carpets became less expensive.

Marriage to dressmaker **Eliza Campbell** (coincidentally the same name as his mother), the birth of two sons, **Ivan** (1893) and **Vivian** (1896), and the death of a third son in 1899, took place during his relatively successful years of the 1890s. However, during the Peterborough period he had to relocate his business several times. His papers and account books show an individual working hard, but struggling toward the end of the decade to make his way financially.

In the early 1900s, Lowry decided to try other lines of work in Peterborough and worked for a time as a travelling salesman throughout the area. He moved to Toronto during the winter of 1905-06 to work at the **Toronto Carpet Company**, then came back to Peterborough for a brief rekindling of his weaving career in 1906-07. In 1910, Samuel, like so many others at that time, left for “the west,” leaving behind many unpaid bills.

He stored all his weaving equipment and supplies in premises owned by **Mr. Buller**, a carter, on King Street in Peterborough. Samuel was given \$200 for this with the understanding that he would pay the money back to retrieve his belongings when he was in a position to do so. However, he didn’t return and we know nothing of his subsequent life. Samuel’s equipment remained in storage for some 46 years.

Enter local Master Weaver **Dini Moes**. In 1956, she and her husband, **John**, were informed that the Buller storage area had

suffered some water damage and the owner of the contents was eager to sell the Samuel Lowry looms and other related equipment. Dini and John acquired everything — looms, equipment and water-damaged material — for \$10 and then spent much time and effort taking the unsalvageable to the dump.

Dini arranged for the Textile Department curator of the **Royal Ontario Museum** in Toronto to view the equipment and comment on their historical significance. He agreed with Dini and John that the items should be kept in the Peterborough area as important artifacts of regional history. In 1967, when Lang Pioneer Village Museum was established as a centennial project of Peterborough County, Dini and John donated the two-shaft loom to the Village, where it has been in use ever since.

In 1972, Dini packed up the other loom, three Jacquard heads and the cards that Samuel Lowry had used in his weaving business, and gave them to Lang in the hope that they could one day be restored to working order. The loom and heads lay dormant for over 30 years until, while a review of Lang Pioneer Village’s Master Plan was undertaken in the spring of 2003, the possibility of restoring the Jacquard looms was raised. A feasibility study determined that the restoration of these rare artifacts would be advantageous to the Museum’s development. It was noted that there were only four other working Jacquard looms on display in North America. These were located at the **Smithsonian Institute** in Washington, D.C., the **Henry Ford Museum** in Dearborn, Michigan, the **Shelbourne Museum** in Burlington, Vermont, and the **Ontario Science Centre** in Toronto.

Don’t miss the opening of the Weaver Shop portion of the building at the Festival of Textiles over the weekend of August 13 and 14 this year (the Jacquard looms, requiring the assistance of Master Weaver **Didier Schvartz**, will be set up at a later date to be determined). The **S. W. Lowry Weaver Shop and Jacquard Loom Interpretive Centre** will provide Lang Pioneer Village Museum with a unique profile among North American museums. Our goal is to become the best place in North America to witness the operation of a 19th-century Jacquard loom. To achieve this goal, the exhibit area will be designed to allow visitors unprecedented overhead vantage points from which to observe the loom in operation.

IPM Legacy Night to be Held at Lang Pioneer Village Museum!

By Marg Telford, on behalf of the Organizers of the IPM Legacy Night

In 2006, thousands of volunteers came together in Keene to organize and stage the **International Plowing Match & Rural Expo**. Now, five years later, we can renew friendships and support Lang Pioneer Village by coming out to the IPM Legacy Night on **Sunday, August 28, 2011**. It would be great to once again see all the awesome people who worked together to host one of the best international plowing matches.

The evening event will include socializing during a



cocktail hour, dinner, a silent auction and live music. There will be a grand prize for the person wearing the most IPM wear and souvenirs, so dig into your closets and dresser drawers!

Looking forward to seeing you at this worthwhile event!

For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact **Lang Pioneer Village Museum** at 705-294-6694.

A Stitch in Time: Using Stitching to Conserve Textiles

By Basia Baklinski, Conservator



All too often, historic garments and textile objects suffer from mechanical wear, have frayed or have become physically unstable. Repairing and maintaining these textiles frequently involves stitching by hand.

Whether the repair involves attaching a lining, joining two textiles, reinforcing holes or tears or securing a damaged area to a support fabric, there are appropriate stitches to use and treatment methods that must be followed.

As a general rule, support fabrics used for repairing a textile should be made of the same fibre as the textile itself. For example, a silk textile should be mounted onto a silk fabric using silk thread. If the same fibre cannot be used, then an inert synthetic fibre, such as polyester, should be used.

When considering stitching, plan the placement of stitches and use as few stitches as possible. Whenever feasible, stitch through the existing stitch holes or between the weave to avoid piercing the threads of the artifact.

The following are examples of a few of the more common stitches used in textile conservation:



The Couching Stitch is the most frequently used stitch in repairing historic textiles. One thread is laid on top of the fabric and another is stitched at regular intervals over it to hold it in place. It is used to secure torn, frayed or weak areas to a new support fabric, to close slits or to secure loose threads to a ground fabric.



The Herringbone Stitch creates a regular crossed zigzag line. It is used to join two layers of fabric while maintaining flexibility, to secure frayed edges or to hold down single-fold hems or the edge of patches.



The Whip Stitch is used when more than one width of fabric is needed to back a textile. The two selvages are joined and, when opened, a flat butt joint is created that avoids seam build-up.



The Slip Stitch is almost invisible and is created by slipping the thread under a fold of fabric. It is used to blind hem, attach linings, join two folded edges together or secure one folded edge to a flat surface.

Become a Member of Lang Pioneer Village Museum and Enjoy the Privileges of Membership

By Joe Corrigan, Museum Manager

Lang Pioneer Village Museum introduced its membership program in 2010 as a replacement for the season pass. Memberships are available at the Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum levels. Bronze memberships cost \$95 for a family (2 adults and up to 4 children), \$60 for an adult and \$50 for a senior or student.

Memberships provide great value for regular visitors and make an ideal gift.

If you have any questions about the membership program, or to become a member, **contact Shawna Foxton at (705) 295-6694 or by e-mail at sfoxton@county.peterborough.on.ca**.

Lang Pioneer Village Museum Bronze-Level Family Membership Benefits

- Free admission to Lang Pioneer Village for 1 full year
- One-year subscription to the Lang Register semi-annual newsletter
- 1 \$3-off coupon valid for up to 2 guest admissions
- 6 free drink vouchers for drinks served in the Keene Hotel
- Invitations to workshops, exhibit previews and special events
- 10% discount in Museum Shop
- 10% discount on Youth Interpreter Program
- 10% discount on workshops

Ask us about the added benefits of our Silver, Gold and Platinum programs.

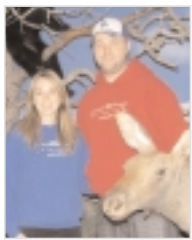


Passion Is the Common Denominator in Providing an Exceptional Visitor Experience

By Joe Corrigan, Museum Manager

I have to face facts. Since I came to Lang Pioneer Village in February 2003, I just don't get out that much! The opportunity to travel hasn't presented itself very often during the past eight years. So, last May, when my wife, **Joan**, informed me she was going to a business conference to Sydney, Nova Scotia, I jumped at the idea of turning the trip into a vacation. Neither of us had visited Newfoundland before and the conference placed us on an eight-hour ferry ride from being able to cross an item off the "bucket list." I know we saved the best for last. From the moment we landed at Port-aux-Basques we were impressed with the sheer beauty of the scenery and the friendliness of the people.

It was educational for me to have the opportunity to see things from the visitor's perspective and I was impressed with the museum staff I encountered at a number of places during our visit. The people who stand out the most in providing an exceptional visitor experience are a young couple from Rocky Harbour on the west coast of Newfoundland. We met **Jen and Kerry Shears** at the end of our first day on the island. While out for a brief stroll, we came across the



Jen and Kerry Shears at the Gros Morne Wildlife Museum
Photo: Joe Corrigan

Gros Morne Wildlife Museum and Gift Shop. On entering, we were greeted by Jen, who invited us on a tour. She was engaging and informative, and it was obvious she had a passion for interpretation. We learned a lot from Jen, not just about the native wildlife, which the Museum profiles in a series of expertly displayed vignettes, but of Newfoundland culture in general. Jen later introduced us to her husband, Kerry, who explained how they had set up their displays.

Jen and Kerry have been working with **Parks Canada** for a number of years and have a great affection for Gros Morne. In fact, Kerry proposed to Jen on top of Gros Morne and the

couple was married in the park. "I work on the Parks Canada Service Team, which includes files like the service standards, and service training development and implementation," Jen says. "I love my work and the fact that every day we positively impact the way Parks Canada team members interact with visitors. I am very fortunate to get to work from this spectacular corner of the world – near all my family, where I was born and raised!" Kerry works at the Gros Morne National Park's campgrounds. "He really enjoys interacting with visitors and being their host. He's a true Newfoundland hospitable soul, welcoming people from all over the world to the area where he grew up, and sharing his passion for the place," Jen adds.

The idea of the museum was spawned from a mutual interest of the couple. As Jen explains, "We've been trappers and hunters all our lives, and that passion turned into a taxidermy business. While we were doing taxidermy work in the shop, visitors would come in and would be excited to see a moose head on the wall or a bear rug on the floor. We figured if that impressed visitors, we could do something to amaze them!"

Construction started in the summer of 2008 and the museum opened to the public in June 2009. In the first two seasons, over 10,000 visitors have been welcomed. "We're thrilled, especially since we didn't have any real signage or advertising in the first year," Jen notes. It's no surprise that Jen and Kerry are doing so well with the Museum and in their work with Parks Canada.

In January I attended a session in Toronto entitled "Creating Effective Visitor Experiences." The session was led by **Robert Loken, Manager of Visitor Services Direction for Parks Canada** and Jen's boss. After the session I introduced myself and told him I had met Jen on my recent trip. Robert offered the following assessment: "Jennifer is uniquely qualified when it comes to service. Her understanding of the needs and wants of the people she interacts with is second to none. She is an enthusiastic service leader who

always maintains her professionalism and sees visitors as people as opposed to numbers. Jennifer's passion for service is an asset to Parks Canada and a blessing to those she interacts with. Drop in at the Gros Morne Wildlife Museum and experience Jennifer's cheerful welcome and captivating stories firsthand. Only this way will you understand why I consider Jennifer a 'Service Champion.'"

As for Service Champions, I'd be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to acknowledge the tremendous contribution Laurie Siblock has made to Lang Pioneer Village in her four-and-a-half years of service. Laurie was the recipient of the 2010 County of Peterborough Award for Customer Service Excellence. This award was given in recognition of Laurie's outstanding work with volunteers, staff, visitors, performers and community groups. Much of the success the Museum has enjoyed over the past few years can be attributed to her efforts. Her work in planning



Warden J. Murray Jones presents Laurie Siblock with the 2010 County of Peterborough Award for Customer Service Excellence
Photo: Sheridan Graham

and organizing the Museum's special events has resulted in a steady growth in attendance over the years. In 2010, special-event visitation exceeded the 9,500 mark for the first time since 2003. Well-done, Laurie! One doesn't have to travel far to find a visitor experience of exceptional quality.



So, What Else Is Happening at Lang Pioneer Village in 2011?

By Joe Corrigan, Museum Manager



With so much attention focused on the Weaver Shop and the Jacquard loom restoration and exhibit projects, it's easy to forget that a multitude of other initiatives will be taking place at Lang Pioneer Village during a very busy 2011 season. The period from January to May is traditionally one of the busiest times of the year for the Museum's senior staff, who are focused on planning and preparations for the coming season. This year's off-season has been particularly hectic. One of the key projects completed was the development of three new education program offerings; two, associated with the S. W. Lowry Weaver Shop and Jacquard Loom Interpretive Centre, are set to start in the fall of 2011, along with a revitalization of the "Settler's First Winter" and the Victorian Schoolhouse Programs.

This season will also see the introduction of billboard advertising on provincial Highways 115, 35, 7 and 28 between mid-June and mid-August. The advertising costs have been covered by a grant from the **Community Futures Development Corporation**, which also funded the Weaver Shop educational programs.

Music is a big part of our program here at the Museum. **Al Kirby's** Traditional Music Workshops have grown in popularity over the past several years and Al will be conducting five sessions during the summer. A **Celebrate Ontario** grant will

allow the Museum to stage three separate musical performances during June, September and October and will see the initial use of the Weaver Shop as a performance venue. This series, entitled "A Heritage Celebration in Story and Song," will include **Mark Finnan's** "The Corktown Man" and "The Ballad of D'Arcy McGee," and "Fowke Tales Revisited," featuring **Al Kirby, Jim Yates, Janet Kellough** and **Jeanette Arsenault**.



We'll be working with the **49th Regiment of Foot Re-enactors** again this year to enhance the quality of the Historic Dominion Day Fenian Raids Re-enactment. I'm pleased to announce we have also been in discussions with the **Brighton High School** to bring their team of 1860s Canadian Militia Re-enactors to the event. This crew boasts authentic reproduction uniforms of the **3rd Victoria Rifles** and the **57th Battalion**, Peterborough's very own militia regiment formed in 1867 and known as the **Peterborough Rangers**.

And speaking of special events, in addition to our standard program of eight events over the course of 13 days, on the evening of August 28 Lang will host the IPM Legacy Night, a celebration of the 5th anniversary

of Peterborough County's hosting of the 2006 International Plowing Match (see the IPM Legacy Night article on page 2 for further particulars).



Capital projects are always a major focus at Lang Pioneer Village with so many 19th-century buildings to maintain and repair. This year's priorities are repairs to the Fitzpatrick House (roof and floor) and Milburn House (floor), the demolition of Portable #1, the completion of the windmill repairs and the painting of the Town Hall and Print Shop.

Thanks to a lucky-draw prize win at the Canadian Museums Association Retail and Visitor Services Conference in Toronto in January, the Museum will be getting a Gift Shop makeover by **Barbara Crowhurst**, a noted retail-store designer, just in time for the start of the new season in May.

In March, we completed the hiring process for our crew of seasonal interpreters who will be joining the Village staff in mid-May. I'm pleased to say about two-thirds of last year's team will be returning, with four or five new faces added to the mix. This promises to be a challenging year and we can look forward to some great experiences over the next several months.

Lang Pioneer Village Staff and Volunteers Live up to Museum's Vision Statement

By Laurie Siblock, Special Events & Community Liaison

Lang Pioneer Village's stated vision is "to provide each and every visitor to Lang Pioneer Village Museum with a living history experience of exceptional quality." Staff who work in the Gift Shop are privy to the expressions of thanks and feedback from visitors as they leave the Village, but staff and volunteers working in the Village who are delivering such great customer service and sending visitors home with cherished memories do not always get to hear the impact they have had on the visitor.

We'd like to share these accolades and thanks with you by passing along some of the comments from the visitor guest book that is located in the Main Gallery.



Northumberland Rug Hooker Dianne Algera and visitor Clarence McCallum, Antique & Classic Car Show, 2010
Photo: Dawn Knudsen

You've clearly put a lot of time and effort into your establishment here! It shows! I had a great time here and learned a lot.

Steffanie Porter, Kawartha Settler's Village

What fun! Great interpreters.

Gwen Blair Humphreys, Pickering, Ontario

I always love coming here. It's great!

J. Hayley Mortin, Bridgenorth

Your actors and actresses were outstanding!

Thank you, I had a fun time.

Madelyne Paulson, Lindsay, Ontario

It's superb and well-arranged and meaningful.

Khou Zefar Mohtaghin, Pakistan

The school was awesome. Everything ROCKED!

Katerinal Papadiakis, Burlington, Ontario

Very interesting, loved the history, loved all the tour guides in costume who let us know all the information and answered our questions. Especially loved the schoolteacher.

Linda Trudgett, Kelse, Bathurst NSW, Australia

Our four-year-old loved it!

The Blackwood Family, Georgia, USA

Beautiful exhibit. Excellent demonstrations. Well-done!

Bridget Foley, Peterborough, Ontario

Very enjoyable! Finally after nearly 40 years, I've found time to come see the Village. Proud to say my grandfather on my mother's side worked for Mr. Eaton in Toronto. Grandpa Frizzelle was the only person Mr. Eaton would allow to measure him for new suits. Grandpa also dressed the store windows.

Janet Reynolds, Toronto, Ontario



Nancy Jackson, Pioneer Corn Roast 2010 Photo: Larry Keeley

“Very interesting and informative. Lovely place to visit. Thank you.”

The Young Family, Lincolnshire, England

Molly Chynoweth,
Jewel Hamshaw and
Emma Chynoweth
2008 Fur Trade
Photo: Laurie Siblock



So interesting and educational. What a wonderful way to spend time with family.

Cole, Emma & Mary tenDoeschate, Warsaw, Ontario

Enjoyed the afternoon. People were very informative and enjoyable.

Debbie Gudmendsen, Dunsford, Ontario

All staff were very good at their jobs. Well-done. We will return in the fall. Thanks.

Dwain & Kathryn Mattis, Consecon, Ontario

Came to see the General Store donated by Frank and Doris Potts. They are 96 years old and just celebrated 70 years of marriage. Amazing!!

Brenda & Wayne Morrison, Campbellford, Ontario

Moved out west and really miss this place. Love it here at Halloween!

Contello Family, Maple Ridge, British Columbia

Thank you for all the information, which was new for me.

Visel & Zomer, Stuttgart, Germany

I came for the BBQ – delicious! Went through the buildings and was very impressed. Volunteers and staff were wonderful. You could tell they loved doing their position.

Bill & Janice Kav

Fantastic exhibit! Wonderful display of items that show connections through the years of catalogue shopping and how consumer items show social history.

Kathy Sredyrka, Kitchener, Ontario

A pleasure to visit – staff are great.

Janet & Anton Radman, Ajax, Ontario

A delightful tour – and so much to remind us of our grandparents' homes and lives. The Village was peaceful and beautiful to wander through and we enjoyed the young people employed for this season.

Katharine & Russell Ferguson, Lion's Head, Ontario

It was so interesting to see Great-Grandpa David's home! It looks quite different from our family home.

Jim, Jwayne & Laura Fife

Wow – best memories ever!

Ronald & Barbara Abey, Belleville, Ontario

“What a wonderful adventure into the past. This is great for memories and to remind us that life can be enjoyed without all the modern trinkets.”

Rebecca Kleinsasser, Lethbridge, Alberta, & Averi Kleinsasser, Thunder Bay, Ontario



Murray Lincoln and visitor Bill Harrison, Antique and Classic Car Show, 2010 Photo: Larry Keeley

“Very interesting. My dad helped with the beginnings of this Village in the '60s, so it's nice to see the preserved buildings.”

*Heather Welch,
Port Hope, Ontario*



Lang Pioneer Village Has Lost a Good Friend

By Joe Corrigan, Museum Manager



Kathleen and her grand-daughter Catherine at the Village



Kathleen on a motor torpedo boat of the Royal Canadian Navy during WWII

It is with sadness that we note the passing last November 16 of one of the Museum's long-standing supporters, **Mrs. Kathleen Bowley**. Born Kathleen Barclay on February 25, 1922, she moved often in her early childhood and attended schools in Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario. During World War II Kathleen enlisted in the **Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service** because, as she said in a CHEX TV interview shortly before her death, she "liked the uniform" (the full interview is posted in the video section of Lang Pioneer Village's Facebook page). She served her country with distinction from 1942 to 1945, achieving the rank of Petty Officer. During her naval career she was posted as a secretary to Ottawa, London and Great Yarmouth, England, and eventually all the way to Ostend, Belgium. It was a source of great pride to Kathleen that, of the 6,000 or so women who served as Wrens in the conflict, she was the only one to have earned the France & Germany Star for service in the European theatre of action.

After the war, Kathleen received her Honours B.A. in English and History from **Queen's University**, and attended the **University of Toronto, School of Graduate Studies**. In 1951, she travelled to Paris, France, to work with the **American Embassy United Nations'** support staff for **Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt** and later for the **Canadian Embassy Visa Section** for Canadian Ambassador and future **Governor General Vincent Massey**. Upon returning to Canada, she married **Robert Bowley** and they had two children, **Gordon** and **Frances Mary**. The family moved to Peterborough in 1963 and Kathleen became an active member of the community, serving as **President of the Women's Auxiliary of St. John's Anglican Church** and the **University Women's Club of Peterborough**. Her volunteer work included time with the **Peterborough Symphony Orchestra**, the **Art Gallery of Peterborough**, **Peterborough Museum and Archives** and **Trent University**, among others.

In the 1970s Kathleen began a 20-year stint as a costumed interpreter at Lang Pioneer Village, usually demonstrating knitting. Even after arthritis put an end to her career as an interpreter, Kathleen continued to be a strong supporter of the Museum. I had the great pleasure of getting to know Kathleen over the past eight years. She had a passionate interest in the S. W. Lowry Weaver Shop and Jacquard Loom Interpretive Centre and contributed to the project in a tangible way. I was pleased that when she visited us last summer, she had an opportunity to tour the building during its construction. We thank you for your contribution to Lang Pioneer Village, the Peterborough community and Canada, Kathleen! You will not be forgotten!



Kathleen in her WREN uniform



Left: Lang Grist Mill Photo: Hans Fischer
Below: Joey Hatt Photo: Didi Anderson



Domenic Kennedy Photo: Carol Siblock

Volunteers! You are invited to the Spring

Volunteer Meet & Greet

at Lang Pioneer Village Museum
on Sunday, May 1,
from 1:00 to 3:00 pm

We hope you can join us as we gather together again to kick off the 2011 season. Come socialize with old and new friends. See the progress that's been made on the S. W. Lowry Weaver Shop and Jacquard Loom Interpretive Centre. Enjoy light refreshments and the lively entertainment of the Bluegrass Trio.

We've missed you and are looking forward to seeing you all again!

Please RSVP by April 26 to Shawna Foxtan at (705) 295-6694 ext. 21
or by email at sfoxtan@county.peterborough.on.ca.

Many thanks to Lang's 2011 Season Sponsorship Partners!



Lang Pioneer Village MUSEUM
EST. 1967



Winner of the Ontario Historical Society Living History Award



GENERAL STORE







2011 SPECIAL EVENTS:

June 11 & 12	The Corktown Man	Showtimes vary, see website *
June 19:	15th Annual Father's Day Smoke & Steam Show	10am – 4pm
July 1:	Historic Dominion Day Celebrations	10am – 4pm*
July 10:	15th Annual Antique & Classic Car Show	10am – 4pm
August 13 & 14:	Festival of Textiles	10am – 4pm
August 28	IPM Legacy Night Gala	5:00 pm to 9:00 pm*
September 4:	Pioneer Corn Roast	10am – 4pm
September 16, 17 & 18	Fowke Tales Revisited	Showtimes vary, see website *
October 2:	Applefest	10am – 4pm
October 14 & 15	The Ballad of D'Arcy McGee	Showtimes vary, see website *
October 21, 22& 28, 29	Spooky Halloween	6pm – 9pm <i>each night</i> *
December 3 & 4:	Christmas by Candlelight	5pm – 9pm <i>each night</i>

SPECIAL EVENT ADMISSION	REGULAR ADMISSION
Adults.....\$10	Adults.....\$8
Students/Seniors.....\$9	Students/Seniors.....\$7
Youth (5-14).....\$6	Youth (5-14).....\$4
Under 5.....Free	Under 5.....Free
Families.....\$30 <i>(includes 2 adults and 4 youth)</i>	Families.....\$20 <i>(includes 2 adults and 4 youth)</i>
All taxes included	All taxes included

*Pricing for event varies from standard special events admission. Please see our website for specific event admission

**SUMMER SEASON
HOURS OF OPERATION:**
June 19 – September 5:
10am – 4pm *(seven days a week)*
September 6 – 16:
10am – 4pm
*(Monday – Friday for hourly guided
tours only. Last admission 3pm)*

DIRECTIONS:
GPS Address:
104 Lang Road, Keene, Ontario
From Peterborough: 10 km east on
Hwy 7, south on County Road 34
From Cobourg: Hwy 45 north to
Hastings, west on County Road 2
Watch for the signs

(705) 295-6694 • www.langpioneervillage.ca

EVENT SPONSORS



MEDIA SPONSORS

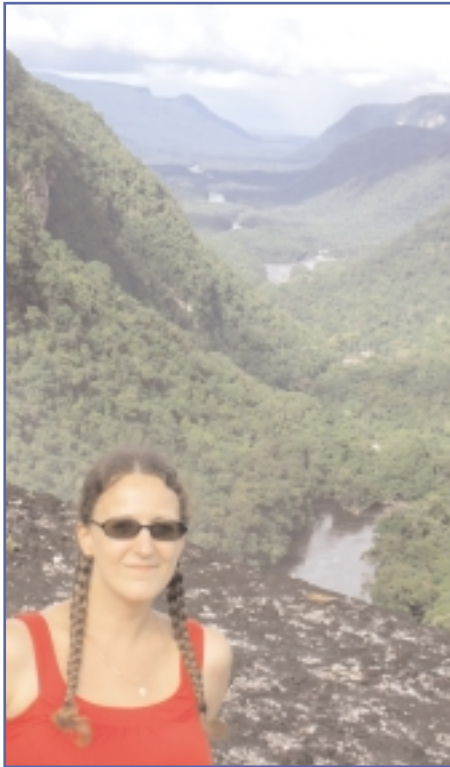


SEASON SPONSOR



From Pioneers to Manatees!

By Renee Homiak, Records Management Intern



Renee Homiak at Kaieteur Falls, Guyana



I moved to Georgetown, Guyana, in October to complete a six-month internship through the **Commonwealth Association of Museums**. I was soon introduced to 19 different museums, libraries and archives at a workshop devoted to organizing a Guyana Association of Museums. All participants had a strong interest in working collaboratively with each other for the greater good of the museum community. The **Director of Culture** encouraged the assembled group to take advantage of my training and experience, and to use me in whatever way they could. He called me the museum expert! Wow! I certainly wasn't feeling like I had all the know-how! Since October I have been working with institution representatives in public programming, collections management, preventive conservation, exhibit design and installation, marketing, disaster preparedness and just about anything else they believe I have expertise in. I must be convincing because they haven't asked me to leave yet!

I have come to realize that there are so many similarities between the issues facing Canadian museums and the issues facing Guyanese museums, just on varying levels. Adjusting to

the different levels has proved to be more challenging than I ever imagined. However, I've learned to get through each of the new challenges, and that what we take as major hiccups in Canadian museums are merely minor inconveniences here.

But it hasn't been all work! I have been fortunate to live in a culture completely unlike my own and experience what everyday life is like. Sometimes it can be amazing, like Seven Curry on Diwali, and other times I long for the snow, like when the giant cockroaches just won't die! I have experienced such sadness on the one hand and beauty on the other. My trip to Kaieteur Falls featured the most breathtaking scene I have ever experienced, and petting the manatee in a natural pond made me feel at one with the large beast.

As my time in Guyana draws to a close, I become sad, thinking about what I will be leaving behind. I came to share my knowledge and experiences, but I've ended up taking so much more from the people around me. Oh, Guyana, land of many waters, I'll think about you when I return to cold and frosty Canada.

Guyana Museum Representatives on tour of Demerara Distillery Ltd.

Safety at Lang Pioneer Village: Increased Awareness Reduces Injuries

By Joe Corrigan, Museum Manager



There are many potential hazards in operating a living-history site that demonstrates a variety of complex 19th-century technologies. With 25 staff, 170 volunteers and an average 20,500 visitors each year, potential risks have to be eliminated to ensure an exceptional visitor experience is not spoiled by an unfortunate accident. The Province of Ontario's *Occupational Health and Safety Act* places the responsibility for workplace safety on everyone involved in the operation. Management and workers share a solemn responsibility to see

that the workplace is safe at all times. The penalties for not adhering to safe work practices are severe, but the consequences of an accident are even more so.

The **County of Peterborough** has worked proactively over the past few years to educate its workers, update its safety procedures and enforce safe work habits on a daily basis. The result of this concentrated effort has produced tangible results. Corporation of the County of Peterborough accidents were down 30 percent

in 2010 over the 2009 figures. This is a significant achievement in itself, but even one accident is too many. One of the things I least enjoy about my job is having to administer first-aid treatment to someone who has been injured here at the Museum. I urge everyone involved with Lang Pioneer Village to keep safety as a top priority as we entertain and educate the visiting public in the months ahead.



Costuming: Characteristics of Women's Dress from the Time Period of the Milburn House

By Janet van Dompsele, Costumer

As we explore the fashion in vogue during the time period of the buildings at Lang Pioneer Village, we now come to the Milburn House, which is representative of the 1870s.

The 1870s was a complex decade in women's fashion. It saw the rise and fall of the first bustle era and a shift from the wide skirts of the '50s and '60s to a much slimmer silhouette. Although short-lived, the early '70s began with the fullness of the skirt being swept back with elaborately draped overskirts over heavily trimmed underskirts all supported by bustles. Flounces, frills, pleats and rouching were the trims of the day.

By the mid-1870s the natural waistline was pushed aside by the long, body-hugging cuirass bodice, with the skirt's fullness starting below the knees and ending in a train. The skirt was held close to the body at the front and sides by tapes hidden and fastened inside. Another style of dress that became popular was the Princess or Polonaise dress, with the bodice and skirt cut in one piece and worn over an underskirt. The back was looped up and held in poufs with inside tapes. Both styles were worn without a bustle, but probably with a small bum pad.

Sleeves of the period were narrow and set in, some widening a little at the cuffs. Necklines on day dresses were square or V-shaped and were either filled in with a chemisette or were high and trimmed to simulate the square or V-shape.

With all the attention to the back of the dresses, the hairstyles also emphasized the back. Hair was pulled up and worn high in a bun or a cluster of ringlets. At this time bangs or a fringe became popular over the forehead.



Shawna Foxton models the Polonaise dress
Photo: Elizabeth King

Hats and bonnets became smaller to accommodate the more elaborate hairstyles and were perched high on top of the head. Some were tied under the chin with ribbons, while some were trimmed with veils.

The bustle lasted only about five years but made a short comeback in the middle to late 1880s.

The dresses described above and illustrated in women's magazines of the day were high fashion. Let's be realistic — the woman living in a log farmhouse in rural Ontario is not likely to wear a full-blown bustle dress to scrub her floors, hoe the garden or slop the pigs. If she had the money to invest in a fashionable dress, it would be the one she would wear in public. Her everyday wear would be a much more practical and wearable dress, along the lines of those pictured in the photographs or perhaps even a working dress left over from



Shawna Foxton models the modified bustle dress in front of the Milburn House
Photo: Elizabeth King

the late 1860s. I've seen photographs taken in the 1880s of women working in the fields wearing dresses resembling those of the mid-'60s with only minor changes in the shoulder line to make them a bit more current.

A special invitation to make your own costume with the guidance of the Costumer

I would like to invite you to make your own costume with my guidance and support. I am a very patient teacher and I have endless patterns as well as an extra sewing machine in the costume department. If you have an interest in sewing and historical costume, you will learn quite a bit and will create a costume for yourself with a custom fit. If you purchase the fabric yourself, the costume will be yours to keep.

Traditional Music Workshops at Lang Pioneer Village

By Elizabeth King, Operations & Retail Coordinator

Join us for fun and instructive music workshops with Al Kirby, at Lang Pioneer Village Museum this season!



Traditional Music Workshop participants, May 2010

This workshop focuses on traditional folk, country and blue-grass-style music.

It features instructional and jam sessions with discussions in Canadian music history and is intended for **beginner and intermediate players**.

Instructor **Allan Kirby** has over 45 years of music experience and uses an interactive teaching style that is fun and rewarding for participants. A guitar and banjo player, he has travelled and recorded with many traditional music groups.

Pre-registration is required.

Session 1

Monday, May 9 to Wednesday, May 11
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day

Session 2

Monday, June 13 to Wednesday, June 15
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day

Session 3

Monday, July 11 to Wednesday, July 13
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day

Session 4

Monday, August 15 to Wednesday, August 17
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day

Session 5

Monday, September 19 to Wednesday, September 21,
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day

To make enquiries or to register, please contact **Elizabeth King at (705) 295-6694 x23 or by e-mail at eking@county.peterborough.on.ca**

A TASTE OF TIME: A Heritage Recipe Collection

By Elizabeth King, Retail & Operations Coordinator

It may come as a surprise to some that rhubarb is a vegetable and not a fruit. It may also surprise you to learn that rhubarb has travelled a long way from home over the years. Originally a Chinese medicinal herb, rhubarb travelled to Russia and then to early Europe for medicinal purposes.

Once having taken up residence in Europe, it was recorded for usage in food—most notably in England in the late 1700s to early 1800s—as a filling for tarts and pies. Ultimately, rhubarb travelled to the Americas. Today, the familiar rhubarb we grow in our gardens is a hybrid developed during the 1800s.

The name “rhubarb” comes from the plant’s botanical genus, *rheum*. The origin of the word “*rheum*” is hypothesized to be from one of two sources. The first theory is that it is derived from the Latin, “*rha babrum*”—an ancient name for the Volga River in Russia where the plant grows profusely. The second is that it comes from the Greek word “*rheo*,” which means “to flow” and refers to the plant’s purgative properties.

The following excerpt is gardening advice from pioneer Catherine Parr Traill on the growth of rhubarb:

“Rhubarb should always find a place in your garden; a cool shady place and rich soil is best: throw on the bed in the fall a good supply of long dung and dig it in the spring. A barrel without a bottom put over a good plant, or a frame of an old box, will make the stalks very tender and less acid.”
(from *The Canadian Settler’s Guide*)

Here at Lang Pioneer Village, rhubarb grows abundantly in the spring and summer in both the Milburn and Fitzpatrick gardens. It is picked by our interpreters and used to create yummy treats for sale in the hotel and samples of heritage food for our visitors. Lang Pioneer Village’s delicious rhubarb cake always receives rave reviews and so, without further ado, we share it with you! Enjoy!

Lang Pioneer Village Rhubarb Cake

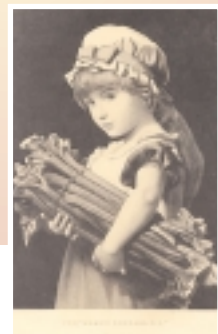
1 cup brown sugar	1/4 tsp salt
1/3 cup butter	1 cup buttermilk
2 cups flour	1 egg, well beaten
1 tsp baking soda	2 cups finely chopped rhubarb
1 tsp baking powder	

Cream the butter and sugar. Stir in the egg. In a separate bowl, mix flour, baking soda, baking powder and salt. Add the flour mixture to the creamed mixture. Add the buttermilk. Stir to combine. Stir in the rhubarb. Pour into an 8-inch-square pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes, or until golden and a toothpick inserted in the centre of the cake comes out clean.

Optional Topping:

1/4 cup brown sugar
1/3 tsp cinnamon

Mix well and sprinkle on top of the cake before baking.



Behind the Ropes at Lang Pioneer Village Museum

By Danielle Harrison, Youth Interpreter

Before I ever heard of the Youth Interpreter Program, I had no idea that I would one day spend two weeks of my summer “behind the ropes” at a pioneer village. Or that I’d be one of the people I’d admired so much when I came on a school trip as a kid. But for the last two summers I have been able to do just that.



The first day of the program, I was outfitted in an 1800s-style costume and went through a tour of Lang Pioneer Village. We got to go through the buildings and hear all the interpretations. The rest of the week was spent learning different skills and crafts in various buildings around the Village.

My favourite place to work was the Keene Hotel. I learned how to bake in the woodstove, and actually succeeded in making cookies that were not burnt to a crisp. It was quite challenging making food with no plastic measuring cups or a timer of any sort and no electricity. Other jobs I was able to do included collecting firewood, helping serve visitors lemonade and cookies, and working on knitting.

I also had the opportunity to learn to work the Washington press in the Print Shop, experiment with old-fashioned toys and demonstrate an 1800s school lesson.

Meeting and talking with all the different visitors was a lot of fun as well. Their stories and insight into the history were fascinating. I learned a lot just from listening to them!

The highlight of my experience at Lang was interpreting for the first time. During the week, I was able to listen to and learn from the skilled interpretations of the staff and volunteers working around the Village. Though my first attempt was far from perfect, the interpreter I was with was so encouraging and helped me with my technique. Soon it was much easier, and I began to enjoy sharing the history of the building I was in.

The best part about being a youth interpreter was having a chance to experience the past in a completely new way. Instead of simply reading about the lives of pioneers, you live it!

After two summers, I have discovered so much about the history and culture of the pioneer era. It was amazing to have a chance to step into a world so different from today.

Danielle and Rachel Harrison Photo: Julia Gregory

Accessibility for Visitors with Disabilities

By Joe Corrigan, Museum Manager

The County of Peterborough approved an Accessible Customer Service Policy on August 5, 2009, to take effect on January 1, 2010. The policy was established in accordance with the *Province of Ontario's Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*. Under this regulation, municipalities are required to establish policies, procedures and practices

that provide accessible customer services to people with various kinds of disabilities in a way that effectively addresses the core principles of independence, dignity, integration and equal opportunity as defined in the act.

To support this initiative, the County of Peterborough has committed to providing Accessibility Awareness Training to its customer-services representatives. Lang Pioneer Village Museum is committed to “providing each and

every visitor with a living history experience of exceptional quality.” Many changes have taken place in the past few years to improve this experience for our customers living with physical challenges—the completion of improved access ramps to many of our buildings in the fall of 2010 is one such example. We will continue to work to foster accessibility awareness among our staff and volunteers and improve physical access to our site in the days and months ahead.



Youth Interpreter Program: Youth Gain New Skills While Earning Volunteer Hours for High School Requirements

By Julia Gregory, Lead Interpreter

During the months of July and August, Lang Pioneer Village Museum hosts several two-week sessions of our Youth Interpreter Program. This is a fun and interesting way for youths from the ages of 12 to 17 to complete their community volunteer hours and learn the skills and trades of the 19th century. Participants wear a period costume and train for a few hours, three days a week, for a two-week period.

NEW THIS YEAR Participants will receive a certificate of achievement for their completion of training in particular 19th century and interpretation skills. For example, Youth Interpreters have a choice of learning two skills of interest per session, from the following areas:

Interpretation: Practice speaking to people using artifacts and history as inspiration.

Baking: Develop the skills to bake with a Dutch oven in an open hearth, or in our period wood stoves.

First-Year Crafts: Understand the difficult life of the first settlers by making candles and carrying water with a yoke.

Woolen Ways: Explore the process of taking raw wool and making it into a knitted or crocheted item.

Recycled Crafts: Reuse material as pioneer women did, making scraps of cloth into beautiful quilted pieces or into rag and hooked rugs.

Decorative Arts: Learn the paper crafts or decorative needlework that were popular during the Victorian era.

Blacksmith Shop: Use tools of the trade to pound out iron into objects such as miniature horseshoes.

Carpenter Shop: Use authentic tools to craft your own wooden projects.

Print Shop: Learn to work our 1827 Washington Flatbed Press.



Delaney Cameron and Julia Holmquist Photo: Julia Gregory

Many of Lang's Youth Interpreters have found a niche here at the Village and return to volunteer at Special Events. Not only is it fun, but this program is also an excellent experience for anyone interested in a future career in the customer service industry, history, tourism or teaching!

The Youth Interpreter Program Dates for 2011 are:

Session 1 – July 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14

Session 2 – July 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28

Session 3 – August 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18

For further information, or to register for the Youth Interpreter Program, please contact Elizabeth King at 705-295-6694 x23 or by e-mail at eking@county.peterborough.on.ca. The application form can also be found under the Educational Programs section of Lang Pioneer Village's website at www.langpioneervillage.ca. Get your application in early to avoid disappointment!

FOLLOW US ON
FACEBOOK

Become a fan of Lang Pioneer Village to receive special-event updates, share photos, get to know other volunteers and more! Search Lang Pioneer Village Museum and select Become a Fan.

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.



An Update on the S. W. Lowry Weaver Shop and Jacquard Loom Interpretive Centre

By Joe Corrigan, Museum Manager

It's been a long time coming, but the opening is in sight for the S. W. Lowry Weaver Shop and Jacquard Loom Interpretive Centre. We are looking forward to the culmination of eight years of effort and considerable investment from all levels of government, private individuals and foundations. As spring comes to Lang Pioneer Village Museum for the 44th time in its history, here is where things stand with the project:

The Building: The exterior work was all but completed last fall. **Stoney Shores**, the contractor, did some finishing work on the roof in January and, over the past few weeks, has concentrated on the interior of the building. The insulation has been installed and the drywall is complete. They are currently installing a radiant, floor-based, propane-gas-powered heating system. The wood flooring, ceiling work, light fixtures and painting/staining will follow. The target deadline was to complete the vast majority of the interior construction work by March 31 so **Audrey Caryi** and her team can start the exhibit installation work by the beginning of April.

The Exhibit: Audrey Caryi, **Laurie Siblock** and volunteers **Louise Egeleton** and **Stephen Dawson** spent March 2 at the **Ontario Science Centre**, meeting with **Shauna Cook** and **Mary Ham** and her associates to learn more about their Jacquard loom and card-punch technology. This was the latest in a series of meetings our exhibit development team has conducted at both the Science Centre and **Black Creek Pioneer Village** as we prepare to set up



our exhibit. The exhibit development group of staff and volunteers has been meeting since last year to identify our needs to ensure the authenticity of the exhibit and get the Jacquard loom up and running. **Lois Watson** has continued to work on tracing the personal history of **Samuel Lowry** while **Lois**, **Faye Jacobs** and **Wendy Cooper** have also made a number of connections with individuals and groups in the local and international textile arts community whose assistance has been invaluable. The team has determined a list of items needed to complete the exhibit and compiled a list of anticipated tasks associated with the project. **Audrey** has drafted a proposed layout for the Weaver Shop portion of the new building (see above) and we are targeting to complete this part of the exhibit by August 13, with the opening scheduled for the first day of our two-day **Festival of Textiles** event.

The Looms: Both the original and replica loom frames and the mechanical heads are secure in a small, locked, environmentally controlled room in the County of Peterborough jail. We are in communication with **Didier Schwartz** to determine when he will be able to

come to Lang Pioneer Village to reassemble the looms. Because of the complexity of this work, we do not anticipate that the Jacquard looms will be fully operational for the opening of the building.

Volunteer Recruitment: The project will require the services of a skilled woodworker to make props for the displays, a machinist to help with a card-punch machine, as well as a team of professional weavers to demonstrate on the Jacquard loom. **Norm Blodgett** and **Steve Dawson** have offered their services as woodworker and machinist, respectively, and several local weavers have expressed interest in working with the Jacquard loom. To provide material for the development of exhibits in the Interpretive Centre, **Louise Egeleton**, a student at **Trent University**, is working on a project through the **Trent Centre for Community-Based Education** to research the evolution of computer technology and the connection of this technology to the Jacquard loom.

A concerted team effort will be needed to bring this dream to reality in the next few months, but the finish line is very much in sight.



Building our Future
from the Fabric of the Past

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