



MEDIA RELEASE

LANG PIONEER VILLAGE MUSEUM
The Corporation of the County of Peterborough

Contact:
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(Museum Manager)

April 16, 2009

2009 SPECIAL EVENTS:

13th Annual Father's Day
Smoke & Steam Show
June 21

Historic Dominion Day
July 1

13th Annual Antique &
Classic Car Show
July 12

Festival of Textiles
August 8 & 9

Pioneer Corn Roast
September 6

Applefest
October 4

Spooky Halloween
October 16, 17 & 23, 24

Christmas by Candlelight
December 5 & 6

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Major Renovations Nearing Completion at Lang Pioneer Village Museum

LANG:

There has been a lot of construction work going on at Lang Pioneer Village since the beginning of January and, with several renovation projects nearing completion, the pace is not likely to let up until the museum opens to the public on May 19th. Once the work is completed, the Museum will have an expanded and more technologically advanced gift shop, an improved front entrance with better accessibility, an updated heating, humidifying and air conditioning system, a remodeled exhibit gallery and improved storage and office space.

It is estimated that the total cost of the work will be in the range of \$80,000 to \$90,000. Although at first it may seem odd to undertake such major work during a recession, planning for these upgrades has been underway for a number of years. The gift shop entrance and layout were identified as inhibitors to the Museum's ability to provide an exceptional visitor experience and to generate revenues in the 2004 – 2006 Master Plan. Capital funds were initially allocated in the 2007 budget year for these improvements. It was also anticipated that the 26 year old interpretive centre's heating system would be reaching the end of its useful life by 2008 or 2009. A capital reserve allocation was built into the County of Peterborough's budget over a number of years to address the cost of the inevitable replacement. The provincial *Ontarians with Disabilities Act* has mandated improvements to accessibility at public places and funds have been put aside for the past few years to address this issue as well. Given the current slowdown, the work being done at the Museum couldn't come at a better time as it provides an economic stimulus to local building trades at a time of reduced demand.

Once renovations are completed, the gift shop will have a twenty five percent increase in floor space, better traffic flow, a new, moveable front counter, new flooring, shelving, lighting, a new front landing and double, automatic wheelchair accessible doors in the place of a single, manual door. There will also be a new point of sale computerized cash register replacing the 1980's vintage equipment now in use. The main exhibit gallery is also getting a face lift. The entire area is being dry walled and painted marking the first upgrade to the area in more than a decade. The new heating and air conditioning system will provide improved comfort to visitors and reduced operating costs for the Museum. The internal duct work associated with the old system has been removed creating additional storage space inside the main office. There is more external hardware with the new system and that equipment, now located outside of the main interpretive building, will be encased in a barn board fenced enclosure to maintain the integrity of the Village's 19th-century appearance.

Lang Pioneer Village is a living history museum proudly owned and operated by the County of Peterborough. The site is located 10 minutes east of Peterborough off Highway 7.

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For more information on this media release please call Joe Corrigan at (705) 295-6694 or jcorrigan@county.peterborough.on.ca.