



Media Release

Lang Pioneer Village Museum
The Corporation of the County of Peterborough



Contact:
Joe Corrigan
Museum Manager

February 27, 2018

2018 Event Schedule

**22nd Annual Father's Day
Smoke & Steam Show**
Sunday, June 17

Historic Dominion Day
Sunday, July 1

**22nd Annual Transportation
Day Car & Motorcycle Show**
Sunday, July 15

**Fibrelicious: A Food and
Fibre Arts Festival**
August 10 – 12

Aug 10 – Hastings Fibre Festival
Aug 11 – Food and Fibre Arts
Workshops at Lang Pioneer Village
Aug 12 – Fibrelicious: A Food and
Fibre Arts Celebration at Lang
Pioneer Village

Applefest
Sunday, September 30

Historic All Hallows' Eve
Fri & Sat, October 26 & 27

Christmas by Candlelight
Sat & Sun, December 2 & 3

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

P.G. Towns and Sons General Store Lives On at Lang Pioneer Village Museum

Lang, ON- In the early morning of Friday, February 2nd, 2018, the hamlet of Douro lost a treasured landmark when the P.G. Towns and Sons General Store burned down. The loss of the store, which was over a century old, has had a big impact on area residents who have known it as a fixture in their community for all of their lives. Although the Towns General Store no longer exists, its spirit lives on at Lang Pioneer Village thanks to the efforts of a former member of the Museum's staff.

In 2003, Lang Pioneer Village Museum began a major project to restore its two, 19th century Jacquard looms. These machines, which used punch cards to develop very intricate patterns on the textiles they produced, were revolutionary during their time in the early 1800's and represent one of the earliest uses of binary code technology in human history and are, in essence, the ancestors of computer technology. Master weaver Didier Schwartz set about the complex task of restoring the looms and their mechanical heads so that they could be re-assembled and made operational. This work was completed by 2005 but, in order to protect these priceless artifacts and interpret them appropriately in a living history environment, an environmentally secure and period authentic "weavers shop" was required.

In 2006, the Museum's late Exhibit Artist, Audrey Caryi, a gifted artist in her own right, was tasked with the challenge of coming up with a concept drawing for the weavers shop which would be the basis on which architectural and engineering drawings would be developed. Audrey set out to come up with a design that would represent a home-based business and be

typical of a late 19th-century artisan weaver. The looms had been owned by a man named Samuel Lowry who worked out of Warsaw back in the 1880's and their origin helped determine the era and the geographic location which would inspire Audrey's design. Audrey found her inspiration in Douro with the Towns General Store being the ideal representation of what a weaver shop should look like.

From the outside, the front "weavers shop" section of the building captured the shape and style of the Towns General Store's two-story façade. The interior of the shop is set up to represent a weaver's work area with a counter, cupboards, supplies, textile samples displayed on the walls, working two-harness and four-harness looms and static display Jacquard loom. The entire building is a single story on the inside to accommodate the height of the Museum's two Jacquard looms which, when restored, stand 10 to 12 feet high. The portion of the building behind the weavers shop is meant to represent a two story home when viewed from the outside. Inside it becomes an interpretive area that houses the Museum's working replica Jacquard loom and a stairway which leads to an elevated viewing platform so visitors can experience the workings of the loom from a 360 degree perspective. There is also room for educational activities and displays related to the Jacquard loom, textiles and, in the future, the evolution of binary technology.

Audrey's legacy lives on in the historic Village through her work in the conceptualization of the Weavers Shop, and in turn, so does the Towns General Store. For more information on our upcoming season, please visit our website at

www.langpioneervillage.ca.



Early Image of the P.G. Towns and Sons General Store



Exterior of the S. W. Lowry Weaver Shop & Jacquard Loom Interpretive Centre at Lang Pioneer Village (circa 2015) – Photo by Caleb Hunt