

GREENWOOD

**BLACKSMITH SHOP:
175 YEARS OF INNOVATION**

2022 Report



Opportunity



The Greenwood Blacksmith Shop was launched in 2022 as the newest interactive exhibit at the Pickering Museum Village. The Blacksmith Shop required structural repairs to preserve the integrity of the heritage building, and accessibility upgrades like lighting, a new ramp and updated exhibit elements to improve the visitor experience. The Greenwood Blacksmith Shop also celebrated its' 175th anniversary in 2022, making this a timely project.

The Blacksmith Shop was designed to spark imagination through elements of play-based learning. Visitors are drawn into the space by the colourful activity stations and rich information about blacksmithing and trades. Kids explore the wagon-making theme by building their own wagon, assembling a wagon wheel and learning about colours.

Renewing this exhibit also opened another opportunity for the museum: digital resources for fun and for education. The museum received a grant from the Digital Museums Canada to develop an online resource, launched in December 2022. With 5 partner sites across Ontario, the museum filmed educational videos for blacksmithing throughout a 200 year history in Ontario, and developed free lesson plans in 3 subjects for teachers' use.

Our Mission

Pickering Museum Village will be a community hub where people come together to learn, share stories, and build relationships through progressive, fun, and vibrant experiences.

Our Vision

Pickering Museum Village will ignite imaginations through a museum that fosters a connection to Pickering by collecting, preserving and interpreting artifacts and social culture.

Restoration

The Blacksmith Shop underwent extensive restorative work led by the City of Pickering's Capital Assets team. Structural repairs were completed to ensure the continued stability of the structure, and a new roof was installed protecting the building for the future. Previously the second floor space was not open to the public, now with an up to code staircase, visitors can explore the paint shop exhibit, and more space is available for programming.



Lighting was installed inside and on the exterior of the building, allowing for it to be used at any time of day. Wi-fi access was also added to the shop, supporting the digital learning resource on a large, touchscreen TV on the first floor.



In addition to the restoration work, a Collections Officer was hired in 2021 to catalogue and relocate over 700 artifacts from the Blacksmith Shop. Many of these artifacts came from the time when it was a working blacksmith shop. Included in this move was the shop's pump bellows, which underwent a conservation cleaning treatment. Some artifacts returned to the shop after restoration to enhance the hands-on displays.

Photos on the right show the space before artifacts were moved (top), after the space was cleared (middle), and after the exhibit was installed (bottom).



Imagination

The exhibit was launched in July, 2022 alongside Pickering Museum Village's new Self Guided tours. Throughout the 2022 summer season, over 400 people visited and explored the Blacksmith's Shop hands-on learning environment.

This new exhibit also made way for new registered programming. **Junior Carriage Painter** was launched in June 2022. Here, visitors explore the upper level of the shop, building on the paint section of the exhibit: participants delve deeper into pigment and paint making by making their own paint!

Forging Ahead: The Blacksmith Challenge was launched in July 2022, based on the interactives within the exhibit, and adding more discovery elements that can only be found within the program. In this activity, visitors work together to complete various challenges set out by the blacksmith. The first team to complete the challenge wins!



Blacksmith Apprentice Quest, a new education program, was launched in Fall, 2022. This program is offered to school groups that visit the museum, where students explore the pathway of an apprentice in the 1800s.

Forging ON: The Evolution of Blacksmithing in Ontario will be launched in 2023. Developed through Digital Museums Canada, this bilingual resource is free to use, and features content from museums across Southern Ontario.



Community

The Blacksmith Shop exhibit was developed with the input of many partnerships and by external groups. It came into being through a mixture of creative minds and community insights.

The Pickering Museum Village received funding from the Government of Ontario Rural Economic Development Fund to renovate the Blacksmith Shop's structure and install exterior lighting for the building. This funding allowed us to reimagine how we would like to reinstall the exhibits once the renovations were complete.

Contract staff were funded through Digital Museums Canada and Young Canada Works. The Digital Museums Canada online resource was developed with the creativity and vision of five partner sites across Southern Ontario: Lang Pioneer Village in Keene, Westfield Heritage Village in Rockton, Fleming College's Haliburton School of Art and Design in Haliburton, Grey Roots Museum and Archives in Owen Sound, and Fanshawe Pioneer Village in London.

The Pickering Museum Village partnered with the Pickering Public Library to create a blacksmith and painting themed Reading Nook, available for public use on the second floor.

Many of the interactives were developed by Expographiq, a Canadian exhibit design company.

In-house, the creative Pickering Museum Village wood wright volunteers spent many hours building interactive elements, such as the anvil play station, and wooden hammers and chisels used to create your own horseshoes.



Thank you

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