

Pickering Museum Village



Annual Report 2023

Pickering Museum Village

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

Through exhibitions, public programming, and school programming, now in both French and English, the museum ignites imaginations and fosters a connection between our residents and our history.

The museum is the safeguard for historical material and visual culture of our area. By collecting, preserving, and contextualizing important artifacts, we enable our residents to engage with and interpret artifacts and social culture.

108

artifacts added to the collection

10

unique school program themes offered

10,114

students visited the museum

15,183

total visitors

\$384,550

grant and sponsorship revenue

Awards

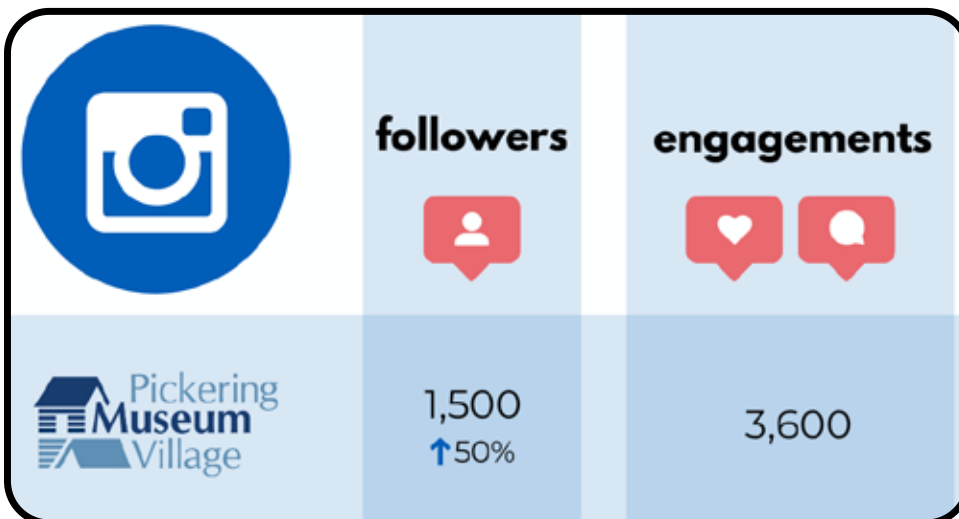
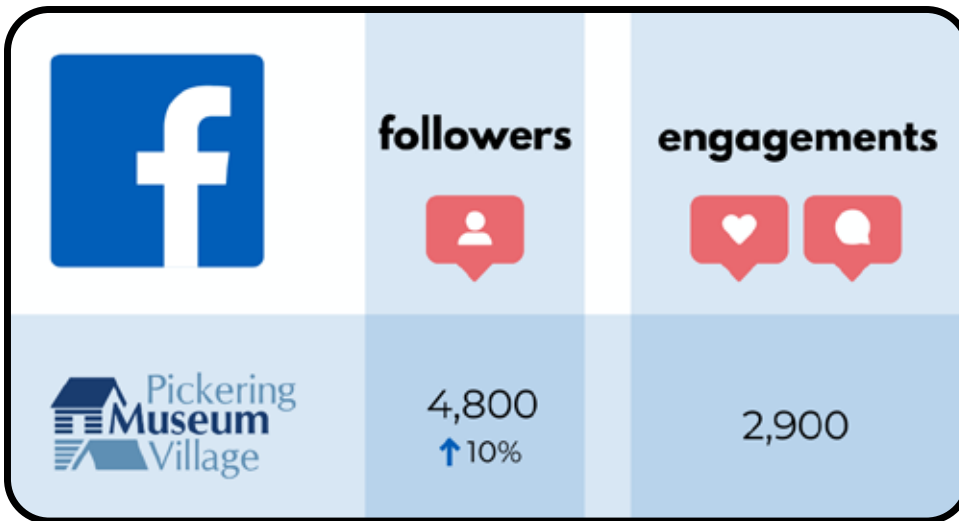


Pickering Museum Village received an honourable mention under the exhibitions category of the OMA Awards of Excellence for 2023 for the Greenwood Blacksmith Shop.

“As many living history museums move away from traditional approaches to static exhibits, Pickering’s Blacksmith Shop embraces this change and offers a new way of using artifacts to engage the visitor in information about blacksmithing and heritage trades”.

– Allison White

Social Media



Collections

The Museum Team brought back the Collections Officer role for another year to continue with artifact relocation projects on site. In 2023, the Collection Officer moved 400 artifacts out of the Log House and Barn into the Conservation Building. Additionally, this role also relocated over 100 small and medium artifacts from the Miller Cole House. Conservation treatments to remediate mold were performed on over 100 of these artifacts.

500 Artifacts moved

1000 Costumes moved

875 New Object Records

Artifacts

108 Artifacts Acquired

25 Accessions

Some artifacts of note that were acquired this year:

Lishman Sculpture

This sculpture was donated shortly after the launch of the Greenwood Blacksmith Shop exhibit. This horse sculpture was created by William (Bill) Lishman, likely when he was using the Blacksmith Shop as his studio in the 1960s.



Pickering Ajax Rescue Unit Jacket circa 1970s-80s

PARU was a volunteer marine Search and Rescue vessel sponsored by the Township of Pickering and operating out of James H. Moore's Moorehaven marina on Wharf St. in Frenchmans Bay.

This donation includes clothing, plaques and photographs related to this organization.



Education

A highly skilled team of 15 Museum Interpreters delivered the following exploratory and interactive education programs in 2023.

9,253 Field Trip Participants

Fun on the Farm

Guided by three scavenger hunt cards, visitors explored our new Combination Barn exhibit. Visitors try milking our demonstration cow, comb the tail of our demonstration Clydesdale foal, judge fair exhibits, and grind feed for cattle, then explore an inn and our village to complete activities on hunt cards. This program introduced a new concept of self-directed discovery and incorporated the newly opened Combination Barn exhibit.



Blacksmith's Apprentice Quest*

Visitors learn about the life of a blacksmith's apprentice while solving puzzles, finding clues, earning tools for their toolkit, and becoming a full journeyman in a new quest-style education program. This 90-minute program includes visits to a house, general store, and the newly opened Greenwood Blacksmith Shop exhibit as well as a quest booklet to complete.

Rebellion!

Pickering Township was a hotbed of political unrest in the 1830s. Through role-play and hands-on activities, students used historical inquiry to explore physical, social and political challenges facing all Upper Canadians, and understanding the causes and consequences of the 1837 Rebellion. They learned stories of local people and decided where their sympathies would have rested. Program reservations included pre- and post-presentation activities for teachers to do with their students to prepare for and round out the experience.

School Days*

The bell has rung and it's time to step back in time to the early days of school and slates! Students learned new games and enjoyed playing student roles with our costumed school teacher through authentic lessons (and a few old-time school rules).



Teddy's Holiday Adventure

Learners follow the story of Teddy Bear as he journeys through the museum village discovering the many holiday traditions from around the world! Equipped with a storybook and activity sheets, students explored customs, read maps, and identify where in the world the traditions began. Students made a Victorian thaumatrope toy with our Museum Interpreter to take home.

* These programs were piloted in French in fall 2023

8 French Schools Booked

332 French Student Participants

Public Programs

The Museum offers a range of dynamic and educational public programs that encourage learning, foster connection, and spark imagination. By bringing the past to the present in interesting ways, the museum instills a sense of municipal pride and imparts cross-cultural knowledge amongst residents and visitors.

Waterfront Ghost Walk ** New for 2023! **Fridays in July & August, 2023**

Guests were invited to join an expert PMV Guide at Pickering's picturesque waterfront, where not everything is as it seems. Guests stepped back in time to explore the darker side of Pickering's past, including tales of infamous criminals, supernatural occurrences, and more!

Pickering Ghost Walk **September 28-October 28, 2023**

Visitors were invited to take a guided tour of the historic village at night and hear stories from the past that still haunt us today. They learned about the paranormal investigations on site that have found evidence of spirits and ghosts, and heard stories of tragedies that took place in Pickering's past.



Pickering Fairy Tour **September 9-10, 16-17 & 23-24, 2023**

The forest, village and gardens of Pickering Museum Village are home to not only some incredible natural creatures, but also some magical ones. Visitors were invited to visit a series of whimsical fairy, elf, and gnome homes scattered in the village and forest, and learn about the history and folklore of the magical creatures of the forest. Activations, music and crafts bring this world to life.



Ice Cream Social

Thursdays & Saturdays May-June, 2023

Museum guests stepped into the PMV diner to make their own ice cream in this 1950s-inspired program! As if that isn't nifty enough. This program includes a sundae bar to jazz up delicious creations.



A Storybook Christmas

Nov 25-26, December 2-3 & 9-10, 2023

Back by popular demand, A Storybook Christmas is a site wide program exploring the history of holiday traditions in a new and unique way. Visitors followed the adventures of Teddy as he explored the village in the search for his friend in a keepsake storybook. Teddy meets many friends along the way and learns about holiday traditions from around the world through music, crafts, treats and activities.

