

Pickering Museum Village

2021: Collections Storage Project



The Project

The Collections Storage and Shelving Project undertaken by the Pickering Museum Village was a three phase project designed by the Museum staff to inventory, clean, pack and relocate artefacts from four buildings; Blacksmith Shop, Upper Site Warehouse, Gate 3 Drive Shed, and the Log Barn. These four buildings are all scheduled for construction and repair work that will allow the Museum to utilize these spaces more effectively, improve storage conditions, and better secure artifacts stored and displayed within them.

The **Blacksmith Shop** is having structural and cosmetic repairs to the building, and a complete redesign of the exhibit to provide our guests with a more interactive and educational experience. The repairs will bring the building up to code to preserve the building and the artifacts on display, and the redesigned exhibit will provide guests of all ages with opportunities to interact with the historical content of the Blacksmith Shop in new, innovative ways.

The Museum previously received funding to construct the **Upper Site Warehouse**, a facility that now stores the Museum's collection of vehicles, large engines, and agricultural artifacts. This year, the Museum purchased shelving for the warehouse to improve artifact storage conditions and security, as well as create safe access to these collections for staff.

The Gate 3 **Drive Shed** is a multi-purpose building that was used to store large artifacts on one side and lumber used for building repairs and construction of replicas on the other. The lumber storage is being outfitted with shelving to improve functionality of the space, while the artifacts have been relocated to the Upper Site Warehouse. In 2022, doors will be installed on the Drive Shed to create a secure area for admissions, programming and tour operations.

The Museums **1830's Log Barn** is another multi-purpose building, with half the barn used as storage for wood furniture and agricultural artifacts and the other half as exhibit and program space. Currently, the collection stored in this building is vulnerable to issues such as overcrowding, pest damage, and fluctuating humidity. This building will undergo rehabilitation work in 2022 that will preserve the Log Barn for future generations.



BLACKSMITH SHOP, EXTERIOR SOUTH WALL

Our Funding and Museum Benefits



Increased storage capacity by **1,000** square feet



More than **700** artifacts from the blacksmith shop were cleaned, inventoried and packed

\$30,000

received from the Government of Canada (Museum Assistance Program)

1

Collections Officer hired to complete this project



4

heritage and support buildings now have improved storage spaces

400

artifacts stored in improved, secured, and pest, free conditions





Project Work

In June 2021, the Museum hired a Temporary Collections Officer to inventory, clean, pack, and transfer the artifacts from the four buildings. This project work also included managing collection records for all artifacts moved and proposing artifacts for deaccession as per the Museum's collection policies.

The Temporary Collections Officer's main project work included:

- Cleaning, inventorying and packing more than 700 artifacts from the Blacksmith Shop.
- Documenting, inventorying and securing 25 agricultural artifacts from the Gate 3 Drive Shed for relocation to sea cans stored on the upper site parking lot.
- Documenting, photographing, inventorying and securing more than 275 artifacts from the Upper Site Warehouse into sea cans stored in the parking lot, including tractors, firetrucks, a steam engine tractor, and large agricultural machinery.
- Cleaning, inventorying, wrapping and relocating approximately 75 artifacts from the Museum's 1830s Log Barn.

Another part of the Temporary Collections Officer's project work was to select artifacts of historical or educational value and create specialised conservation treatment plans. Among these artifacts is a large bellows, which for many years had been on display in the Blacksmith Shop, and an early-1900s Buggy. As seen in the images on the next few pages, these two artifacts require extensive conservation treatment due to age, weather and pest damage that they endured while on display in the Museum. Both artifacts are excellent examples of early Pickering industries and have significant meaning to our community, and therefore, will undergo conservation treatments that will ensure they are sufficiently protected and will have an ongoing use in future exhibits for the public's enjoyment.



CARRIAGES, UPPER SITE WAREHOUSE, INTERIOR SOUTH WALL

The bellows has top and bottom wooden paddles connected with metal-boned leather and a wood and metal supporting structure. The wood elements will need to be cleaned and have any broken rivets removed from the edges. The metal supports, boning and rivets are rusted and will be cleaned or removed and replaced with newer, sturdier metals. The leather is dry, cracked and has large tears, making repair impossible. The leather will be carefully removed and replaced with new material.



The early-1900s Buggy is a wooden structure with metal and wood wheels, and a large horse-tail stuffed leather seat. The leather on this artifact is dried, cracking and torn as well from weather exposure and pest activity. The pest damage has also resulted in irreparable damage to the horse-tail stuffing and the metal springs in the seat. There is severe rust on the metal supports, and wood rot in several locations throughout the wooden frame.

Blacksmith Shop: Metal Shop

Before



After



1830's Log Barn

Before



After



Upper Site Storage Shed

Before



After



Please note this project was 100% funded by the **Museum Assistance Program Grant**. Thank you to our sponsor for their generous contribution.

Funded by the
Government
of Canada

Canada

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Located 15 minutes north of Pickering City Centre,
Between Brock Road and Westney Road, just off Highway #7.



— City of —
PICKERING

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 **Pickering
Museum
Village**