



# St. Lawrence Power & Equipment Museum

A Newsletter for Members of the St. Lawrence Power & Equipment Museum, a 501(c)(3) Education Corporation

## Sunny Rainy Old Fashioned Harvest Days

**S**aturday was a beautiful day. Exhibitors and visitors alike filled the campus with whirlwind activity. The mini and draft horses pulled inside the Equine Pavilion, the sawmill made lumber, tractors paraded, engines puffed, printing presses clanked, and hosts and hostesses had doors open everywhere. A good crowd had dinner that night and enjoyed the music of **Steelin' Country**. But Sunday was so wet we could not bring ourselves to charge visitors at the gate. A modest crowd braved the weather, especially when the chicken came off the grill. However, with so many Museum exhibits now undercover, there was still plenty to see and do. In all it was a great Exhibition. The Museum is so large now that it's hard to see everything in a single day. It's also becoming difficult to find volunteers to cover all the jobs this entails. The kitchen alone takes many people to keep things running without exhausting everyone. We also need new hands to train so we can continue to operate all the equipment. Congratulations to all those who made the show a success.



*Our heartiest fans came out on Sunday and braved persistent rains. The sawmill ran and work was still accomplished.*



*With the smell of fresh varnish still in the air, Carol Lama, Andrea Castle, and Phyllis Brock (left to right) demonstrate their skills at the new Heritage Fibers facility during the Old Fashioned Harvest Days Exhibition.*

## Heritage Fibers Dream Comes True

**H**eritage Fibers now has a home. During the Fall Show, visitors were able to see demonstrations ranging from spinning yarn to knotting rugs. The new facility has beautiful knotty pine walls, a floor of local ash, and a mezzanine with a cedar-lined closet for fabric storage. The front porch is now covered with cedar shingles made at the Museum. Furniture and textile equipment has been moving in ranging from a fine store counter to a large barn loom. Discussions are already underway regarding future programs including instructional classes. The Heritage Fibers Committee still welcomes contributions to help retire the loan it received which made completion of the facility possible. Anyone wishing to help should send their checks to the Museum and earmark them for Heritage Fibers. You can also contact Andrea Castle at (315) 322-5663 or email andreacastle22@gmail.com.



## Sewage Project Completed

**A**t long last the Museum has a large functioning sewage system. In the spring of 2013 the Museum received a grant to complete its sewage system from the St. Lawrence River Valley Redevelopment Agency's Community Development and Environmental Improvement Fund (CD/EI Fund). By mid-2014 we had installed the pumping chamber near the existing pair of 2,000 gallon sewage tanks next to the public toilets and installed over 700 feet of sewage pipe. For a variety of reasons the project was delayed until this year when **Moore's Excavating Co.** completed the project. This involved extending the sewage line several hundred feet further, installing pumps and pump controls with alarms, a Flout dosing system for two distribution lines, and 1,250 feet of leach line. The rocky ground behind the Carriage Barn was challenging. However, the system was ready for the Fall Show and has operated as designed since then. The project cost \$48,000 of which the Museum contributed \$18,300 in cash and in-kind materials, labor and services. The final design was prepared by **Smith Civil Engineering, PLLC**. The grant was administered by the **St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency**.



*Only a few boulders (arrows) remain where the new sewage leachfield was installed. Each marks the location of a key component.*

### Museum Events 2018

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| February:  | Annual Meeting of the Trustees  |
| February:  | Annual Meeting of the Members, ballot tabulation, and announcement of election results. |
| June 8-10: | 35th Annual Spring Antique Gas & Steam Engine Exhibition.                               |
| July:      | Annual Banquet.   |
| September: | 28th Annual Old Fashioned Harvest Days Exhibition (see page 5).                         |

# Outstanding Service Recognized

In late September, President Reg Chester and Vice-President Joe Finnegan drove to Watertown to meet with **Mark Thompson and the team at Jefferson Concrete Corp.** Mark is a son of Lisbon. As soon as the Museum began to grow in Madrid, Mark made it known that he and Jefferson Concrete would like to provide support. Since then they have donated many items including septic tanks, concrete barriers for the pull track, pillars for the blacksmith shop, and many of the concrete benches we all enjoy and that too few Museums offer their visitors. For their ongoing support they were presented the Museum's Outstanding Business Award.



Reg Chester presents the Outstanding Business Award to Mark Thompson.



Bob and Carole Moulton hold the Distinguished Service Award presented by Reg Chester.

**Robert and Carole Moulton** were presented the Museum's Distinguished Service Award during the October meeting of the members. Bob was recognized for his extraordinary efforts in seeking willing generous contributors to our Silent Auctions. He found not only great contributors, but also received several cash contributions as well. He has also managed to find support for the raffles including excellent mountain bikes, electronic tablets, and yard furnishings. He is known for his gentle persuasion as he makes the rounds selling 50:50 tickets. Carole had the job of tabulating the names and data regarding each donor and setting the items out for bidding. You can also find her helping out during shows wherever needed. Together, Bob and Carole make a great team.

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## Equine Expo Benefits Cancer Fund

Hundreds of horse fanciers braved marginal weather to attend the Equine Expo presented by **Pro-Equine** to benefit the **St. Lawrence County Cancer Fund**. Organizer Scott Loomis with generous help from **Honey Dew Acres** and a host of other volunteers present training sessions on riding, driving, equine health, and roping among others. The Equine Building served well as rain discouraged most of the outside activities during the morning. The Pavilion Building was filled with vendors selling or promoting everything from saddles to soap. Food was available at the kitchen, provided by Museum volunteers. Museum buildings were open for visitors. By day's end the event had raised \$4,000 for the Cancer Fund, and everyone had enjoyed a great day.

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**Why not make year-end gift giving a habit. It's good for the soul and helps at tax time if you itemize deductions. Several projects, the endowment fund, or general fund would welcome your support.**



Peggy McAdam instructs the crowd in the art of hitching a horse to a cart in the Equine Pavilion during the Expo.



At the Fall Show an exhibit dedicated to the memory of Bill Mousaw featured his classic Lincoln convertible and other memorabilia. Billie Jean (Bill's daughter) and Michael Lennox brought the car. George Cox and others at the AAC chapter organized the exhibit.



About 50 members turned out for the Fall Meeting of the Members. Past activities and future plans were discussed. Great snacks!

# New Blacksmith Shop Puts on Great Fall Shows

The new Blacksmith Shop was an attraction even before the Fall Show as master timberframer, Jacob Weaver, arrived to direct the assembly of the beams he had hewn during early spring. Museum members provided needed muscle for the erection from setting posts in place to laying the final roof rafter.



The frame of the Blacksmith Shop was completed just in time for the Fall Show.

Soon after the Fall Show got underway. Members of the New York State Designer Blacksmiths were there to give demonstrations of their art. Their work continued on Sunday with tarps keeping the rain at bay. Construction of the building resumed after the Show was over and

when the rains had stopped. Roof planks and temporary plastic sheeting were set in place, and board and batten cladding was nailed to the walls. The addition of doors has it secured for winter. ☀



James Tiernan (above) and others of the New York State Designer Blacksmiths demonstrated their art.

Circa 1900 Woodshop Plans Take Shape

When Reggie Stowe passed away in 2015 he left behind an old woodshop filled with vintage machines including a table saw, planer, jointer, scroll saw, metal lathe, drill press, and an International Harvester P-2 engine that drove the line shafts. These have been donated to the Museum by his family to be featured in a new Woodshop to be constructed at the Museum during the coming year. The Museum also has a few other classic items including a band saw, sander, and wood lathe. Reggie's father, Arthur, is known to have operated this equipment, and it likely that his grandfather, Henry, probably built the shop and began equipping it in the late 1800s. The machines date from the late 1800s to the early 1900s. All are driven by a single engine connected to line shafts suspended from the rafters above. Wide belts on pulleys mounted on the shaft drive individual machines. The new shop will have about 1,300 square feet of space and incorporate the Stowe collection and other vintage machines already at the Museum. A timberframe building with a wood floor and clapboard siding is planned. Large windows and wide doors will provide ample light and access for projects and visitors alike. A large woodworking bench with vintage tools will complete facilities needed for projects and demonstrations. Donations of logs and lumber would be very welcome. Construction funds are also needed and will be matched dollar for dollar. Volunteers are needed to help organize the construction. Others are sought who would like to demonstrate their woodworking skills with members and visitors. Please contact Roger Austin if interested (contact information on back page).



A unique scroll saw at the Stowe Woodshop at Stowe Bay in Colton.



Gary Sayer who baled the straw, Ron Sheppard forking, Carol Austin advising, and Ed Sheppard and John Castle bagging oats the day after the Fall Show. It had rained Sunday, and the task of threshing the oats still had to be completed.

# **Dues Go Up in January - Act Now to Save**

The Board of Trustees has announced that dues for Voting Members will increase from the current \$15 for an individual to \$25 and couples from \$20 to \$30. If you pay your 2018 dues before that date, the old rates of \$15 and \$20 will be accepted. This is the first dues increase since October 2004, our first year as a Museum. The increase reflects the increased cost of doing business. While the Newsletter's printing and postage are expected costs, there are others as well. These include insurance, professional fees, utilities, and office supplies among others. We try to cover operating and other costs from show income. However, a year like this one with poor weather during shows results in very tight accounts. While we have an excellent cash balance in our accounts, much of that is restricted for use on specific projects or uses. We need to grow the unrestricted cash margin in the coming years. Remember the benefits of being a member:

- It is your museum. It is supported and operated principally by you. You elect the Board that manages the Museum.
- You are building a legacy for yourself, the region, and future generations.
- You receive newsletters that keep you up to date on what's happening, just one part of belonging to a very transparent organization.
- You are permitted to help operate, maintain, exhibit, and interpret the Museum's collection and its facilities.

- You help hold the Museum in trust on behalf of the people of New York.
  - And of course, we have very cool hats, pins, shirts and jackets.

Those who pay for five years of dues get an extra year free. Pay for 10 years and you get two more. Dues for Junior members (under 18) remains \$5.

# Dollar General Land Sale Update

The financial group seeking to develop a Dollar General Store site on a corner of the Museum's property requested and received a three-month extension of the Agreement. The process began in November of 2016 and involves approximately 1½ acres of Museum land surrounding the corner gas station (not Museum property) at the intersection of State Highways 310 and 345. The group has been going through the permitting process required by State and local government agencies. The State Highway Dept. has stipulations for the entrances on two highways. Proximity to an old gas station always raises questions about potential contamination. Reportedly, investigations to date have not found any problems, and they hope that construction can begin in early spring if things continue to go well.

## **2017 Exhibition Financials Show a Rainy Day**

Financial results from this year's combined Exhibitions reflect the wet weather during the Fall Show. The shows had a net income of \$18,580 compared to the 2016 net of \$24,515. Still, there is no question about the financial value of the hard work of our volunteers or the value of a donated pie, rusty tools, gifts from businesses, the pulls, or putting on a great program. Consider the following. Combined sales at the kitchen and from ice cream and baked goods netted \$14,000. The gate collected \$8,700; raffles, \$3,400; attic treasures, \$2,600; silent auction, \$2,000; old iron auction, \$1,200; and \$500 when we passed the hat during the music on Saturday nights. And remember that the net income includes expenses that might not be obvious such as rented tents, advertising, toilet rental, and trash removal. At the end of the fall show we had sold all the chicken but still had other groceries remaining. These were cooked up or sold as is during the next few weeks to net another \$1,800 that could otherwise have been lost. Members rule!

## Show Net Income – Six Years

	\$ Spring	\$ Fall	\$ Total	Paid Visitors
2017	-	-	18,580	1,733*
2016	-	-	24,515	2,253
2015	14,687	11,630	26,317	2,532
2014	12,361	10,268	22,629	1,990
2013	14,281	9,663	23,681	2,004
2012	15,657	10,970	26,406	1,926

Note\*: No gate fee collected Sunday at the fall show due to rain.

**NOTE:** Voting members should look for a "v" after their name on the mailing label. The date that follows is the year through which dues have been paid. You should see a v17 to be up to date.



*The miniature horse pulls provide great excitement and grow in popularity each year.*



*You can always rely of Ray Dunning to bring something special to a Show. This fall it was a rare Stickney engine that he restored.*

# Nominations Sought for 2018 Elections

Beginning on November 15, Nominations will be accepted for several positions on the Museum's Board of Trustees. Positions open for election in 2018 include the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer who are elected annually. In addition, two positions among the Trustees are usually open each year. These are elected to alternating three-year terms. There is one other annual position open which is generally reserved for the immediate past President. An incumbent in this position may only serve a total of three successive years. If you would like to serve on the Board or know of someone that you would recommend, please contact the Nominations and Elections Committee Chair, Barbara Fisher, and let her know. Nominees must express a willingness to serve, offer skills that will advance the mission of the Museum, represent the communities and interests of the members, and be prepared to dedicate significant time to the Museum and its activities. Fisher and her committee will contact nominees and confirm these factors. Nominations will close in mid-December with ballots mailed out in mid-January.

**How about inviting friends to join the Museum. Or give a friend or relative the gift of a membership. Do this before January 1 and current dues rates will apply (see page 4). Share the excitement and bring needed support to your Museum.** ☺



At the Fall Show's Sunday church service, music was provided by Ted Ritzko (sax) and Josh Barkley (key board).



A family demonstrates our whistle-blower policy during the Fall Show. Loud and often are the rules.

## Board to Consider Change in Fall Show Date

The Museum's Board needs member input as it discusses changing the date of the Annual Old Fashioned Harvest Days Exhibition from Labor Day weekend to a later weekend in September. When ballots go out for Board elections, Museum members will be asked to contribute their comments. Concern over the date of the event was expressed after finding it very difficult to staff our facilities during the recent show. It seems we are competing with many other area weekend activities such as the Heuvelton Labor Day Celebration, Massena Heritage Festival, and closing family camps for the winter. However, the Exhibition has been held every Labor Day weekend since 1991 when Howard and Verna Hutchinson invited members of the former St. Lawrence Gas & Steam Engine Association to their farm for fun and fellowship. The Museum continued the tradition of its predecessor organization after becoming a New York education corporation. Having Monday as a holiday gives everyone a chance to rest after the show, not to mention many days of preparation. There is also concern that school sporting events and other established activities will create new problems if the event is held later in the fall. The main question we need to resolve is what can we do to assure an ample supply of volunteers to help with Old Fashioned Harvest Day events. In spite of all the problems we hear about the North Country, there is still much going on. A puzzle, Eh! ☺

**Photos by Roger Austin, Joe Finnegan, Chuck Goolden, and John Bartholomew**



We now have an intersection with 4-way stop signs. The heavy traffic and eagerness of everyone during shows has made them necessary. Whoda thought!

**Hats off to Cindy Mitchell and crew for painting the gas station.**



Larry Beattie and his excellent 1923 Ford dump truck can be seen at most Exhibitions. The Fall Show was no exception. Just shows that some old things can be very exciting.



April Vasher-Dean (third from right), Director of The Art Museum at SUNY Potsdam brought her class to visit the Museum in September. She was accompanied by Romi Sebald (right), the University's Collections Manager.

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ON PAGE 4

## Museum Trustees

**President/Trustee:** Reginald F. Chester, 8350 County Route 27, Lisbon, New York 13656. Phone (315) 394-6513. Cell (315) 244-2330. Email: rmjchester@slclic.com.

**Vice-President/Trustee:** Joseph A. Finnegan, PO Box 101, Madrid, NY 13660. Phone (315) 322-4017. Cell: (315) 322-3818. Email: jfinnega@twenyrr.com.

**Secretary/Trustee:** Roger S. Austin, 410 Stevenson Road, Rensselaer Falls, NY 13680. Phone (315) 344-7470 or cell (315) 869-1665. Winters: 179 Lakecrest Dr. NE, Milledgeville, Georgia 31061. Phone (478) 453-3640. Email: rsaustin123@earthlink.net.

**Treasurer/Trustee:** Lee W. Dezell, 1648 County Route 31, Lisbon, NY 13658. Phone (315) 393-6328. Email: leeedezell@gmail.com.

**Trustee:** John L. Castle, 1015 County Rt. 44, Madrid, NY 13660. Phone (315) 322-5663. Email: andreacastle22@gmail.com.

**Trustee:** Wayne E. Day, 1065 County Route 30, Madrid, NY 13660. Phone (315) 322-8956. Email: day37@slclic.com.

**Trustee:** Kevin Finnegan, 3357 County Rt. 14, Madrid, NY 13660. Phone (315) 322-5771. Email: maplemeadowsfinnegan@gmail.com.

**Trustee:** Alan L. Garrand, 299 County Rt. 20, Richville, NY 13681. Phone (315) 287-7225. Email: nagarrand@twcnryrr.com.

**Trustee:** Darrin L. Jock, 68 Southwoods Road, Dickinson Center, NY 12930. Phone (518) 569-2092. Email darrinjock@yahoo.com

**Trustee:** Connie J. Martin, 501 County Route 36, Chase Mills, New York 13621. Phone (315) 769-8883. Email: ejmartin54@email.com.

**Trustee:** Ronald E. Sheppard, 45 Old State Road, Heuvelton, New York 13654. Phone (315) 323-5349. Email res15@health.state.ny.us.

**Recording Secretary:** Barbara F. Fisher, 104 County Route 31, Madrid, NY 13660. Phone (315) 322-0501. Email bfisher001@twcnryrr.com.

Newsletter Editor: Roger S. Austin

Webmaster: Gary F. Hargrave, Visit: <http://slpowermuseum.com/>  
Contact us at: info@slpowermuseum.com



*Is this a mower, de-thatcher, stone picker or what? At right is the once-popular and fun doodle bug. In the 30s to the 60s these were equivalent of the modern ATVs. They cruised fields and forest, and some actually did productive work. Very cool. ☺*

