



# St. Lawrence Power & Equipment Museum

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

## Trustee Elections Begin the New Year

Members will find ballots enclosed in this Newsletter for the election of officers and trustees for 2019. Also enclosed are biographical sketches of each nominee. Nominations were closed on December 31. Openings include the four officers elected annually, two three-year trustee positions, and the one-year trustee position generally reserved for a former president. Election is also needed for someone to complete the unfinished term of Trustee Darrin Jock. Darrin regrettably announced his decision to resign from the board, noting that changed circumstances prevent him from serving his last year as planned. He assures us of his continuing support of Museum activities. Counting of ballots will be concluded and election results announced at the Annual Meeting of the Members on February 17. Members unable to attend are asked to mail in their ballots along with a completed proxy early enough for them to arrive at the Madrid Post Office by Friday, February 15. The Annual Meeting gives members a chance to visit and hear about the busy year we have ahead.

## Website Redesign Completed

Gary Hargrave took on the task of developing and maintaining our website around 2006. During the next 12 years, website stories and photos grew to more than 1,000 files. The growth of the site made it popular with visits from people scattered throughout the US, interested in the many subjects Gary covered. Growth also created multiple layers of information gradually making navigation more burdensome. The increasing time needed to manage the site also took Gary away from his hobby of restoring old engines. Last spring the Board approved selection of Shawn Tooley of **North Country Design** in Heuvelton to redesign the site. The site's new framework is now complete. It is easier to navigate and can accommodate much more information. Members will notice several places where new information or photos are needed. These will be easy to add to the new framework. The site now accommodates computers, tablets and iPhones. Visit [www.slpowermuseum.com](http://www.slpowermuseum.com) and enjoy the new features.



Ron Sheppard gave rides to dozens of children during the Pumpkin Patch Party.



Dr. Sharon Vekh Williams (3rd from r) and her Museum Studies class from SLU visited our Museum in September. Earlier that month April Vasher-Dean and her Museum students from SUNY Potsdam had also visited.



Young artists hard at work decorating their pumpkin. A grand time was enjoyed by all.

## Pumpkin Patch Party Proves Big Surprise

In late September, Jena Cryderman and her father, Kent, harvested 130 pumpkins from the Museum's pumpkin patch for the kids' Pumpkin Party. With 50 to 100 visitors expected, everyone was surprised when 300 kids arrived plus parents in tow. A dash to our Amish neighbors found more pumpkins, so almost no one went home without one. The event was organized by Jena with lots of helpers including Mary Jean Chester, Joe Finnegan, Barbara Fisher, Lee Goolden, Bob Marshall, and Marcia Oney. Tables were set for painting pumpkins. Wayne Stark and Ron Sheppard provided rides on the hay wagon. The kids helped Carol and Roger Austin make cider with bushels of apples from Connie Martin. Wayne and Mary Day made popcorn. Dot Locy ran a *guess how many beans* contest. Jerry Fisher ran the Cow Train. There were games outside, face painting, tours of buildings, snacks and refreshments. All agreed we should have another party next fall.

### Museum Events 2019

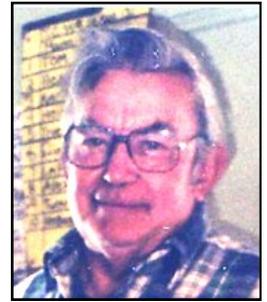
February 11	Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees. Monday at 6:30 pm at the Madrid Firehouse.
February 17	Annual Meeting of the Members, installation of new trustees; Sunday, 1:30 pm; Madrid Community Center.
June 8-9	37th Annual Spring Antique Gas & Steam Engine Exhibition.
Aug. 31-Sept. 1	29th Annual Old Fashioned Harvest Days Exhibition.

**Paul G. Shirley** passed away on December 10, 2018. Paul was one of the Museum's initial trustees upon its founding in April of 2004. He was also a charter member of the St. Lawrence Gas & Steam Engine Association, the Museum's predecessor organization, founded in 1976. Paul and his family were very active in the organization. He served as its president as well as holding other



*Paul Shirley (l) with Paul Moore at the 2018 Old Fashioned Harvest Days Show.*

offices. As the "engine club" grew, Paul was a major advocate of acquiring a place it could call home and the idea of reincorporating as a not-for-profit organization to make it possible. He helped underwrite the legal costs of our becoming an education corporation. He was active in the search that examined 19 different properties that eventually led to the acquisition of the Gooden-Mann farm, our current home. Paul was a skilled mechanic helping repair, restore and operate engines, tractors, the hay press, and sawmills for the Association, the Museum, and their members. He is survived by his wife, Patricia, and his children and their families. Paul was 84. ✂



*Paul Shirley in 2001.*

**Clinton W. "Pete" Green** (left) died October 13, 2018.



Though not a member, he will be remembered for jointly donating with Bill Bartlett the classic ca. 1926 Bay City excavator shovel now residing across the lane from the Antique Tractor Building. Pete was 82.



**Clayton A. Weatherup** (right) passed away December 21, 2018. He was a former member for many years. He will be remembered for the classic antique tools and other old iron that he brought to many exhibitions for sale. Clayton was 88. ✂



*Just before Christmas, Reg and Mary Jean Chester, Bob Tracy, Joe and Jim Walker assembled this float for Lisbon's winter light festival, **Lights on the River**.*

## Two Golf Cars Purchased to Accommodate Visitors

With the closing of **Mid-State Golf Cars** the Museum can no longer enjoy its generosity in loans of vehicles for use during the annual shows. However, the Museum did take advantage of surplus inventory and purchased two 4-passenger vehicles. The total cost of \$7,300 will be paid in installments to help manage our operating budget. Both have gas engines. With the last year's purchase of a six-passenger vehicle, we now have three to accommodate visitors. More will still be needed during the shows. Anyone willing to loan theirs for these events will be greatly appreciated. ☹



*Barbara Alford was one of several members who gave rides to visitors last summer.*



*Our blacksmiths made a branding iron for Reg Chester so he could make souvenirs from shingles made at our shingle mill.*

**Photos by Roger Austin, John Bartholomew, Mary Jean Chester, Barbara Evens and others.**

**When you vote be sure your dues are paid through 2019. Thanks!**

**Sam W. Morrison** passed away on October 6, 2018. He was most often seen operating the big Anderson diesel engine during exhibitions. He could also be found in the shop at the Antique Tractor Building. He was an expert mechanic and enjoyed doing restoration work on the Museum's tractors. Sam is survived by his wife, Patricia, and two sons and their families. Sam was 67. ✂



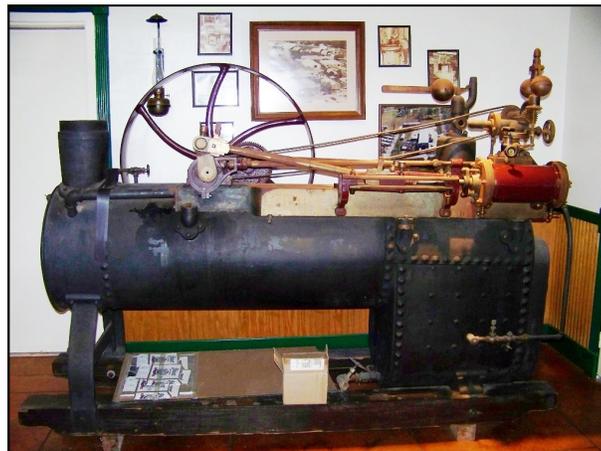
*Jerry Fisher and the Cow Train at the Pumpkin Party.*

## Museum Acquires Watertown Steam Engine

This past summer, Mark Hill of **4th Coast Fours** in Waddington contacted the Museum about a steam engine (upper right) made in Watertown, NY by the **Steam Engine Company**. The owner was willing to sell it to the Museum for only \$4,000 - but it was in Texas. Photos sent (shown here) were taken in the seller's house. It is a portable engine, apparently 2-4 horsepower, with a single flywheel.



The boiler and fire box are black and the piston engine is brass. It has a 2-ball governor and an adjustable ball-on-arm pressure relief valve (left). Jim Mackessy at the Camillus Erie Canal Town Park researched the engine some years ago and believes the information on the fire box door (below) to be correct.



Details of the engine's construction indicate it was made in 1870. The name at that time did not include *Watertown*, so its mention only refers to its place of manufacture. Not long after the Fall Show, the Museum asked friend Jay Foster of Norwich, NY to bring the engine to the Museum. The engine now resides in the Antique Tractor Building showroom. It needs dusting and the brass polished. Interested? ✂



## Steam Engines Now Number Three

We now have three steam engines: the "new" Watertown engine (above), our classic portable A.B. Farquhar (right), and the Sturtevant stationary, upright engine without its boiler. It is located at the 4-way stop sign intersection at the Museum. The company produced fans, blowers, and generators. It built the steam engines to power them well into the mid-1900s. All three companies produced very large engines as well as our relatively smaller ones. The Farquhar steamer has been operated by Gary Hargrave and Bill Clinger. They are looking for additional helpers and operators to allow them some time off during shows and to assist with maintenance. Basic operating skills can be learned as the engine is prepped and operated at shows. More in-depth training is available at about seven steam schools offered each year throughout the US including one at Kinzer, PA. Most are two-day programs yet do not cost much. Classes get full quickly, so google steam engine schools now for more information and applications. If interested, Gary's contact information is on the back page. ✂



Gary Hargrave (center) and the Farquhar steam engine at the Fall Show.

## Heritage Fibers Group Plans Future

The Heritage Fiber group met twice in September to plan programs for the coming year. They have had a solid response from those in the community interested in learning more about fiber arts. Classes will begin with warmer weather or when electrical service is available so heating can be installed. The group thanks Dan Dunkelberg for constructing the lovely sign on the front of the Heritage Fibers building and Dan, Kevin and Kyle Dunkelberg and Bob Dalton for installing it on the building. 🍴

## Board Approves Electrical Upgrade

Work to improve electrical service at the Museum will get underway in the spring. The Board has approved a first-phase expenditure of up to \$4,000 which will increase the size of the existing transformer from 240 to 360 volts. A new underground line will be installed to serve the Heritage Fibers building and others. Wayne Day and Joe Finnegan will manage the project. Phase II will address a much larger extension of service to points throughout the campus and provide for future growth. If interested in helping with the project, please contact Joe or Wayne. ✂



The Heritage Fibers group was a popular stop for visitors last summer. The building's new sign is hard to miss. Look for fiber art programs this spring.



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## **Log Cabin Makes Important Progress**

The new windows at the Log Cabin are easy to see, but as important are the many small steel braces installed to support and stabilize the old gal. The back-door is now framed. Extensive repairs had to be made where a chainsaw had been used to heighten and widen the door. The doors are being returned to their original height of 5 feet 2 inches. **Duck!** will be the watchword when you enter. In the spring we will install new doors and begin filling the chinks with split logs and mortar. Experiments with local sand and hydrated lime were done to determine how to make a mortar similar to the original. A shake roof, clapboard gable ends, and stone cladding on the base will complete the outside. A floor, stairway and some whitewash will finish the inside. Plans for furnishing the cabin are in progress. 

