

An Important Update about 2009 – 2010 Education Programming offered by the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum

Dear Teacher,

Welcome back for a brand new year! We would like to invite you to come and visit us at the Museum this year. Our programs are consistently well-reviewed by teachers – who tell us that our programs closely parallel their classroom study and curriculum requirements – and also by the students, who enjoy spending the day in the Museum's authentic heritage atmosphere. The Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum is in its 38th year of collecting Canadian history and our Historical Interpreters continue to share knowledge and enthusiasm for heritage and education with many visitors each year. We would love to welcome you and your students to our site.

In addition to learning about the experiences of local early settlers, one of the main benefits of taking part in a School Program with the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum is that we offer programs to only one school per day. This means that on the day you visit, your class (or group of classes) will be the only school on-site so you have the full attention of our trained staff.

As an additional service to teachers, the Museum offers several Outreach Programs that can bring Museum staff and programming right into your classroom. For our one-and-a-half to two-hour visit, staff will bring artifacts, materials, and activities that can supplement your classroom instruction or serve as a prelude to your Museum visit. We also have Education Kits on several heritage topics that can be rented for classroom use.

What's NEW in 2009 - 2010

There are big changes happening at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum that will enhance the overall quality of the programming we are able to offer both to you and your students. We are thrilled to announce that a NEW Museum Visitor/Community Centre will be constructed on the Museum grounds beginning March 2010.



Artist's rendering of new building

The planning for this project began in 2002 with a study showing a need for a larger space to better accommodate the Museum's growing attendance. This led to architectural drawings in 2006, and finally the 'go ahead' in the spring of 2009. This new facility will create a quality venue for arts, culture, heritage and community celebration activities centrally located within York Region. The versatility planned for the space opens the possibility for a wide variety of new programming initiatives from lectures, receptions and meals to hands-on activity programs for all ages; from small dramatic or musical performances to cinematic/video presentations. The additional programming space with its high level of flexibility for different uses will significantly increase public exposure to heritage, artistic and multi-cultural experiences.



View from North side of site

How will this affect Education Programming for you and your students...

Upon completion of the Visitor/Community Centre, the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum will have a new and welcoming space for you to enjoy while you're on-site, as well improved reception and gift shop areas, plus improved washroom facilities and overall improved accessibility. We will continue to offer high quality, curriculum-based programming for you and your students. We look forward to seeing you in our new facility!!

How to book your program from September 2009 – March 2010

Enclosed with this letter you will find 2009-2010 brochures outlining the educational programs and classroom supplements provided by the Museum. Construction for the new Visitor/Community Centre is set to begin in late March, so we will not be able to offer on-site programs in April, May, or June of 2010. We do apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, but are excited about the programming possibilities when the new Centre is finished. If you are a teacher who usually books during April, May, or June, we ask that you either book your on-site program prior to March Break 2010 or we'd like to encourage you to book one of our Outreach Programs and/or rent an Education Kit to help meet your curriculum needs during that time. (We have enclosed information on our Outreach Programs and Edu-Kits in this mailing.) We will also update you with information about the 2010-2011 school year when we have more information to share.

This year we are also launching a new program, **DISCOVER FIRST NATIONS: ARCHAEOLOGY, CULTURE, AND CONTACT**. **DISCOVER FIRST NATIONS** has been created to supplement the Grade 6 Ontario Social Studies Curriculum. This program highlights unique details from the Mantle Site, a large 9-acre village that has yielded evidence of over 70 longhouses and tens of thousands of artifacts. Last April we ran our "test program". We were pleased with its feedback from teachers and students and we look forward to bringing it to you and your students. This program is being offered both on-site and as an Outreach program. Please see our brochure for more information.

The Museum will also be offering drop-in crafts for students ages 8–12 during the PA days of September 25 and November 9th. We will be offering a full day pre-holiday workshop for students ages 8–12 during the December 4th PA day.

We would appreciate your sharing this information with any of your colleagues who may be interested in planning educational excursions – for any grade level. Feel free to make extra copies of these brochures if you wish. Please do not hesitate to contact us at the Museum if you would like additional information.

Sincerely,



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Program Coordinator
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