



ANNUAL REPORT 2019



ERMATINGER•CLERGUE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE



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Curator / Supervisor
May 2020



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Ermatinger • Clergue
National Historic Site

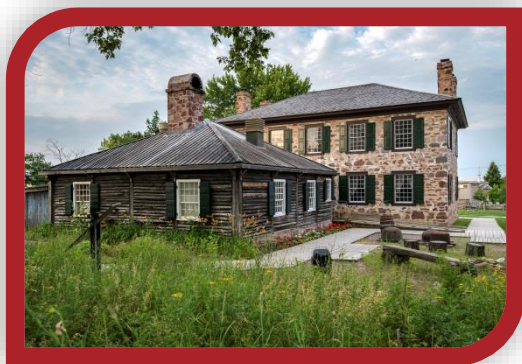


EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2019 was an exceptional year. Visitation to the Ermatinger-Clergue National Historic Site reached an all time high, the most we have seen to the Site than any other year to date. The increase in visitation is a result of some of the new Festivals & Events we hosted (*Poutine Feast & Halloween House*), as well as an increase in Cruise Ship passenger visits and Group Tour Sales. This annual report will provide further information on the details of the year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many local residents, and organizations who have partnered with us and continue to support us in many ways and opportunities.

Kathy Fisher, Curator



MANDATE

The Ermatinger-Clergue National Historic Site provides visitors and residents of Sault Ste. Marie with an opportunity to experience the history of our community through the preservation and historic interpretation of artifacts related to the Site; within the Ermatinger Old Stone House, the Clergue Blockhouse, the Heritage Discovery Centre, and including the heritage gardens and grounds; and through related festivals and events.

GOVERNANCE

The Ermatinger-Clergue National Historic Site is owned and operated by the City of Sault Ste. Marie, under the management of the Historic Sites Board, an appointed Board of Council. The 2019 Board comprised of 5 citizens and 1 Council member.

The Historic Sites Board By-law mandates the responsibilities of the Board in overseeing the operations of the Ermatinger-Clergue National Historic Site.

In 2018 and 2019, the Historic Sites Board reviewed and revised their strategic plan and governance policy to reflect the direction of the Ontario Museum Association, Ontario Cultural Plan, City of Sault Ste. Marie's corporate strategic plan along with FutureSSM direction, and the SSM Downtown Association plan.

The Historic Sites Board along with the Curator, ensure that the Ontario standards for museums are met and are submitted to the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Sport - Province of Ontario each year.

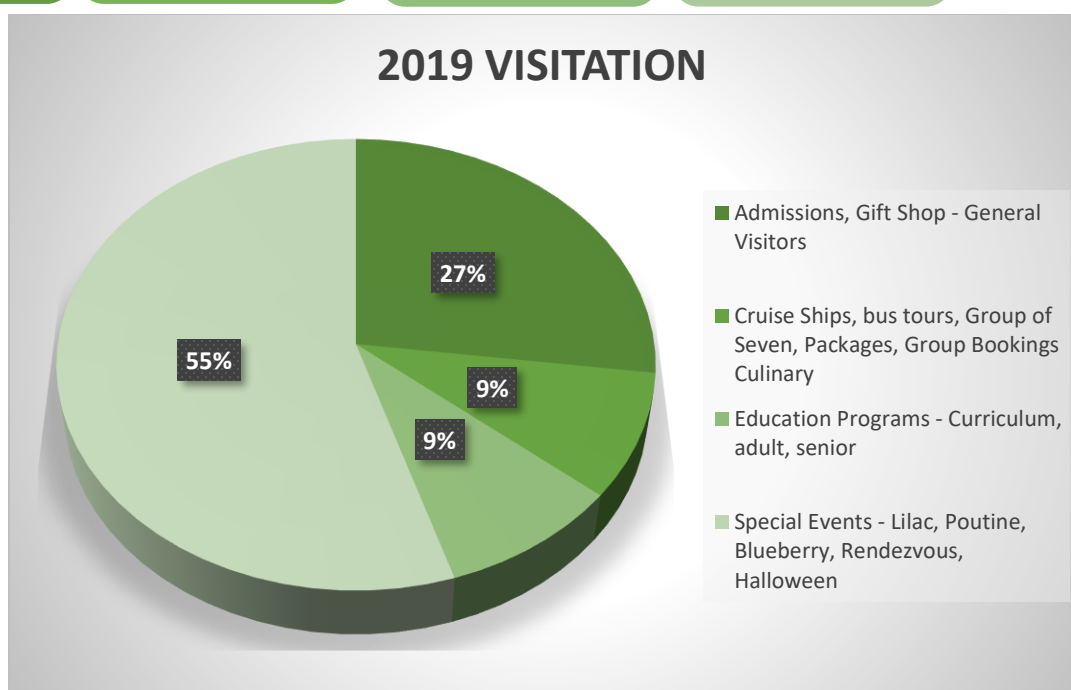
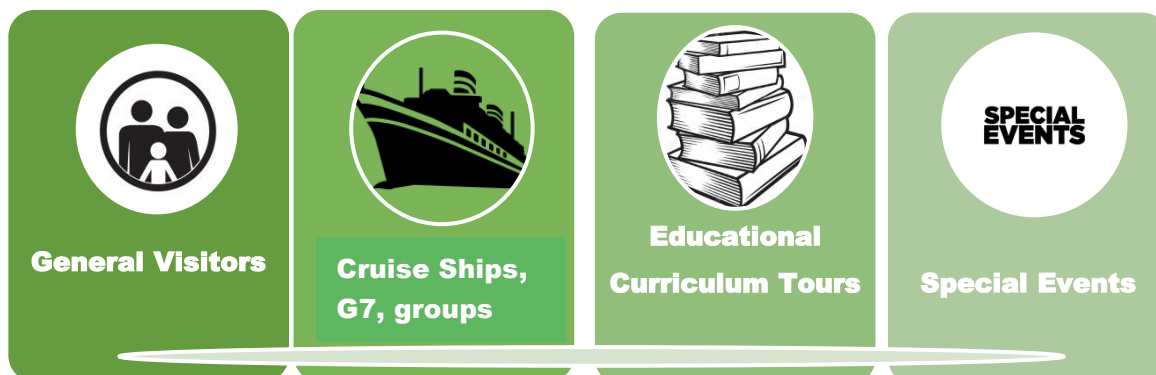


VISITATION

January to December



General Visitors	
- General Site Visitors	Total: 4983
- Cruise Ships	Total: 1813
- Group of Seven Program – Road Scholar & Gt. Can. Tour	Total: 459
Packages sold by Tourism Sault Ste. Marie	
- Agawa Canyon Train Tours Packages	Total: 611
- On line tickets / Passes	
Educational Programs – Curriculum	Total: 1767
Adult Programming – Fridays by the Fire, and Workshops	Total: 567
Private Bookings for Heritage Culinary Experiences	Total: 340
Special Events (Poutine Feast, Halloween, Rendezvous, Lilac & Lavender) and ECNHS hosted Themed Dinners	Total: 17667
Non-paying visitors to Gift Shop / 4Culture Pass / Memberships	
Venue Rentals	Total: 3720
GRAND TOTAL	31,927





EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING – CURRICULUM BASED ON SITE AT ECNHS



Program Name	Number of Programs	Number of Participants
Pioneer Living (Grade 3 & 4)	5	133
Long Ago (Grades 1 to 4)	6	196
Native Life (Grade 5 & 6)	4	144
Fur Trade (Grade 7) **	23	604
Yuletide (Grade 1 to 4)	10	299
Child's Summer	9	238
Brownies / Girl Guides	2	56
Customized Programs	3	97
Total:	62	1767

** Fur Trade Program is included in Fall Rendezvous

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

Youth, Adult, & 55+

On site & Offsite (Numbers are divided into various sections within the stats listed on page 4)



	NUMBERS OF PROGRAMS	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
Senior Services 55+ at various venue's	49	321
Sault College Event Management	1	16
Culture Days & DTA tours	9	221
Sault College Outdoor Parks & Rec	1	16
Junior Gardener (full season)	14	40
Lavender herbal talk	2	45
Familiarization tours (Tourism Reps & Rendezvous Canada & Media Writers)	12	172
Finish Ambassador & Consulate	1	5
Officer Tour for Canadian Armed Forces Delegation from Ottawa	1	10
Fridays by the Fire - Lunch & Learn	15	434
Fall Rendezvous – stations for public education festival days	24	1368



OUTREACH EXPOSURE

In 2019 staff and volunteers participated in and collaborated with partnered organizations, in the following opportunities:

- Tourism Week – Ontario Tourist Information Centre
- Hello Spring – New North Greenhouses
- Seedy Saturday – Horticultural Society / Sault College
- Volunteer Bureau – Volunteer Fair for SSM
- Canada Day festivities at Roberta Bondar Park – City of Sault Ste. Marie
- Culture Days Ontario – SSM Public Library, Art Gallery of Algoma, Local Immigration Partnership
- 4 Senior Services talks / demonstrations
- Presentations at service club meetings, SSM Public Library, Living History Algoma, Friends of ECNHS

PARTNERSHIPS 2019

- Admission Partnerships: TSSM Market share (online ticketing), and
 - SSM Public Library Pass (87)
- Friends of ECNHS
- Living History Algoma – SSM Oral Histories, Sault Stories, & Theatre in Motion
- Algoma University Archives and Shingwauk Kinomage Gamig (Shingwauk University)
- Tourism SSM, Future SSM, Algoma Country, Destination ON
- 4Culture – Sault Ste. Marie Museum, Canadian Heritage Bushplane Museum,
 - Art Gallery of Algoma
- Parks Canada Sault Canal and Fort St. Joseph
- Downtown Association – POUTINE FEAST, Halloween House Events, and Moonlight Magic
- Sault Ste. Marie Public Library – Fridays by the Fire, Festival of Trees, Culture Days
- Senior Services 55+
- North Shore Cultural Attractions Network
- Sault Ste. Marie Conservation Authority
- Community Living Algoma – Volunteer Placements
- Indian Friendship Centre – Fall Rendezvous & Fridays by the Fire
- Garden River and Batchewana First Nation – Healing Lodge Singers
- Local Immigration Partnership – National Film Day, LIP Forum, Culture Days
- Ontario Museum Association – Board of Directors, Program Committee Conference 2020, and projects such as: Diversity and Inclusion Symposium & Toolkit





FESTIVALS AND EVENTS - 2019

1. Fridays by the Fire: Every Friday January through March, a lunch & learn program.
2. Seniors Carpet Bowling -Wednesday's & Fridays – Fall to Spring – Theatre in HDC.
3. April - Easter Egg Hunt & Egg Scavenger 2019 – 261 participants (197 participants in 2018).
4. June - Lilac and Lavender Victorian High Tea specializing in our special culinary menu.
5. July 1st to 4th – POUTINE FEAST 1st annual – with visitation of 12,000. Beer, music, games. Partners: DTA
6. July - Parade of Paddles – Canoe/kayak locked up in the Sault Canal & then paddled to Ermatinger Site – & Poutine Feast.
7. July - Strawberry Social - Event planned in conjunction with SSM Downtown Street Party.
8. August - Blueberry Festival - Blueberry Pancake breakfast – Blueberry Tea & Mad Hatter Tea Party.
9. September - FALL RENDEZVOUS -Annual Fall Rendezvous hosted by “Friends of” A four-day event at the site.
10. Culture Days in Partnership with SSM Public Library, Local Immigration Partnership: A multicultural series.
11. Halloween House – in partnership with the Downtown Association -1st annual –Entomica (insectarium).
12. Moonlight Magic – in partnership with the Downtown Association –Christmas Shopping, cookies & cider & “ice bar”.
13. November - Evening in the Summer Kitchen –Christmas themed Heritage Culinary with local musician and stories.
14. Christmas Tea – Victorian Fancy tea with all our homemade holiday baking. Christmas Carolers lead the visitors in song.



VENUE RENTALS

The Heritage Discovery Centre provides the Ermatinger•Clergue National Historic Site with a unique opportunity to rent out the theatre and/or foyer. We are able to book in receptions, small conferences, weddings, showers, and annual meetings, all of which have been very well received.

The summer kitchen in the Ermatinger Old Stone House still is a popular venue for any occasion.

Venue rentals for 2019 included:

- Weddings, Wedding Photo's, and Private Parties
- Tourism Northern Ontario
- Ontario Culinary Alliance
- Ontario Trillium Foundation information session
- Breast Cancer Awareness celebration
- SSM Social Services
- SSM Day Cares
- Community Foundations
- NORDIK AGM
- Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines



GIFT SHOP – “The Post”

In 2019, the Gift Shop within the Heritage Discovery Centre operated for the third year completely by Site staff and volunteers. Purchased merchandise for resale, and local artist's consignment items in combination comprised the inventory. In January / February the Curator attended the Toronto Gift Show in conjunction with the Canadian Museum Retail & Enterprise Services Conference.

Net Revenue 2019	\$13,352.31
Net Revenue 2018:	\$ 10,028.95
Net revenue 2017:	\$ 9,860.00





The Ermatinger•Clergue National Historic Site has partnered with the Theatre in Motion company to present the of Group of Seven series of programming to the site. The Group of Seven program involved a performance within the Heritage Discovery Centre Theatre which features a one-man theatrical production of Lawren Harris, followed by a Heritage Culinary Dinner themed on the foods the men ate while in the Algoma region. Historic interpretation and promotion for travelling in Algoma reflects on the Group of Seven and their experiences while painting our great landscapes. This iconic Canadian Program is offered to bus / tour groups as well as to those individuals doing drive tours, or fly and drive tours, for their “Moments in Algoma”. The packages are sold through Tourism Sault Ste. Marie for group bus tour companies. The individual tickets are promoted by Algoma Country and our ECNHS websites.

PICNIC BASKETS

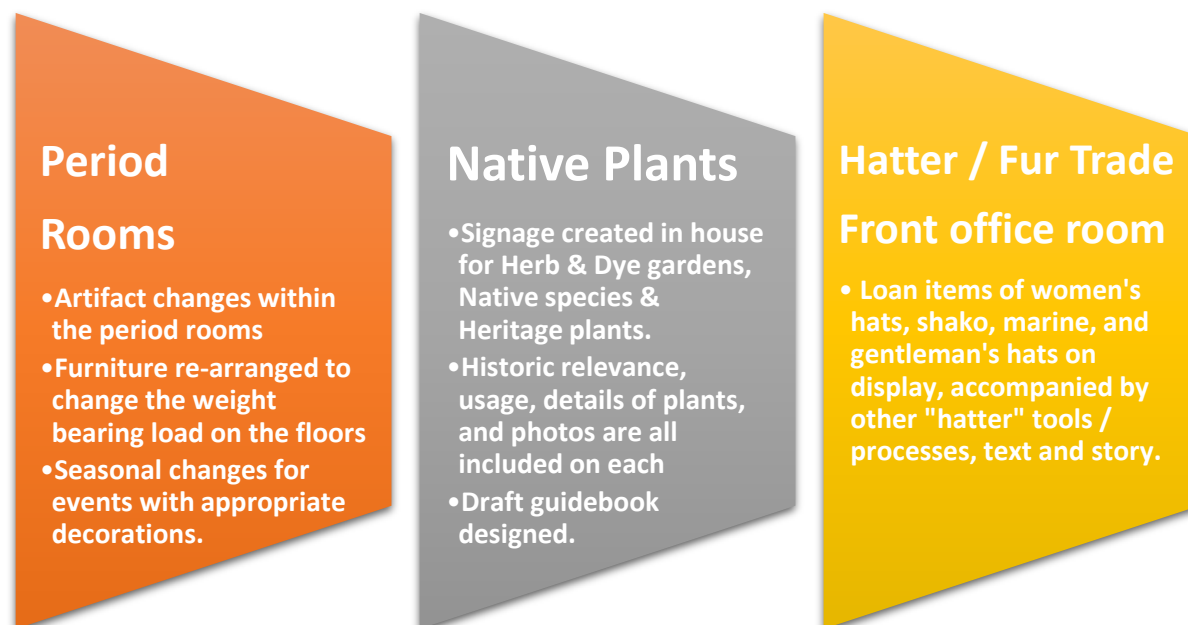
This year we introduced our Picnic Baskets as another option to explore Algoma and the Group of Seven



landscape. The basket options allow for three variations on menu, and are accompanied with information on the “story” and the “Taste of Algoma”. Customers are introduced to the “Map” and the “App” which will take them on their journey to explore the rugged landscapes of Algoma, and provide them with information on which artist painted each of the locations marked.

Algoma's Taste of Place Elements	
Natural Landscape:	Mountains, Inland Lakes, Rivers, Forests, Islands, Freshwater, Lake Superior, Lake Huron
People:	First Nation, Italian, French-Canadian, Finnish, Ukrainians, etc.
History:	Fur Trading, Voyageurs, Group of Seven, Heritage Foods
Activities:	Canoeing, Motorcycling, Fishing, Hunting, Hiking, Sledding, Kayaking, Cycling, Swimming, Camping, Alpine and Cross-Country Skiing
Cooking Techniques and Characteristics:	Fresh, Wild, Natural, Open Fire, Fried, Roasted, Smoked
Dining:	Homemade, Family Recipes, Heritage, Traditional, Communal
Food and Drink:	Berries, Game Meat, Maple Syrup, Maple Products, Bannock, Blueberries, Beef, Whitefish, Pickerel/Walleye, Mushrooms, Smoked Trout, Tie Plates, Vodka, Beer

EXHIBITS



EXHIBITS: The exhibit categories above are what were completed as Exhibit goals that were set in our 2018 plan - for 2019 implementation.

The front Fur Trade office – South East Period Room of the Old Stone House, housed the following short-term exhibits for special events:

- Artifact or Artifake – Fridays by the Fire
- Aprons – the History of & Display – Lilac & Lavender
- Soup Turenes – Fall Rendezvous
- 200th Anniversary of HBC Powder Magazine - Summer
- Children's Room – new replica toys, children's books, 1812 era clothing to try on
- Métis Sashes – the story of the different patterns and weaves



AUDIO WANDS: The Historic Sites Board researched and recommended the rental of 10 “audio tour” wands for trial during the 2019 season. The trial of our Site walking tour with 24 information stations located in and around the buildings, provided further historical information, and acknowledged the land for which we are located. Visitors really liked using the wands, and were quite happy in situations when the orientation theatre was not available, due to other programming. The Audio Tour wands have now been purchased and the goal for 2020 is to have the tour in French and English, and perhaps even expand on the information available through this device.



VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers who assist in activities, events, and programming, are a mix of individuals from the following areas:

Members of the Friends of Ermatinger•Clergue National Historic Site

- Members of the Historic Sites Board
- Adult and Youth Re-Enactors
- High school students
- Adults & Seniors (55+) who individually want to assist in many capacities

The site is managed by a volunteer Board (Historic Sites Board) which is comprised of **6 members** contributing a total of **144 hours** for Board Meetings, and a grand total of approximately **484 hours for 2019**. With the addition of 2 bigger festivals (Poutine Feast, and Halloween House) Board Members offered more time to assist during the busy events. Members for the Sault Ste. Marie Historic Sites Board are appointed by City Council every 2 years.

The Ermatinger•Clergue National Historic Site has **42 volunteers** contributing **1234 opportunities = 4666 hours** of volunteer assistance – not including the Board members. Many of the volunteers began to help in the planning years of 2010 & 2011, and then during the 200th Commemoration of the War of 1812, however, we are graced with some volunteers that have achieved over 30 years of service, and bringing “History to Life”!

Grand total - 48 volunteers donated 5150 hours of assistance during 2019.



STAFFING in 2019

The Ermatinger•Clergue National Historic Site consists of 3 buildings and heritage gardens, operated year-round, since the 2014 opening of the Heritage Discovery Centre. 2019 Staff levels at

the Ermatinger•Clergue National Historic Site was as follows:

Regular year-round staff:

- 1 Full Time Permanent Curator
- 1 Full Time Permanent (Heritage) Programmer Assistant
- 1 Part Time Garden / Grounds / House Keeper (28 hrs / wk – Spring to Fall - seasonal)
- 1 Part Time Historic Interpreter (21 to 28 hrs / wk)
- 1 Part Time Cook (25 hrs / wk)
- 1 Part Time Administrative Assistant/Receptionist (25 hrs./wk)
- 1 Part Time Facility Attendant in a career training program with funding from March of Dimes

Students:

- 1 Young Canada Works Summer Student (Federally Funded) & City of SSM
- 1 Provincial GREEN JOBS (Provincially Funded) & City of SSM
- 2 Municipal Summer Students (Funded through the City of Sault Ste Marie)





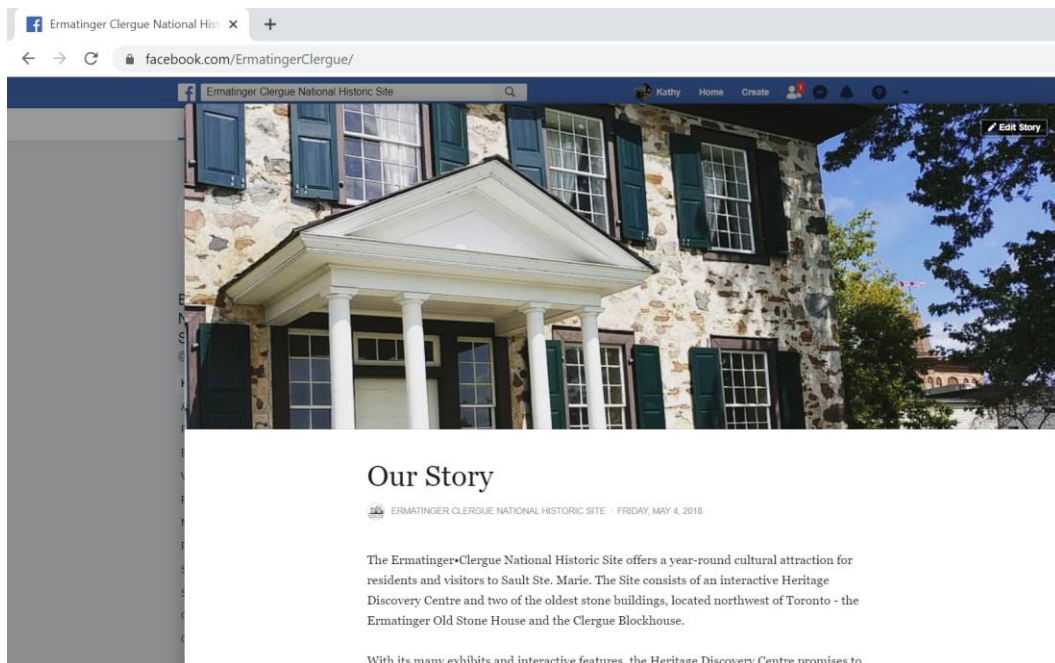
SOCIAL MEDIA

With the Museum Standards for CMOG (Community Museums Operating Grant) and the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, “Social Media” became a project in the forefront in 2016. The Ermatinger•Clergue National Historic Site operates a Facebook Page in order to engage and interact with the community. When we began our start with social media, a written policy was required for the Board, staff, and to meet the Museum Standards. The Site took on operating the Facebook Page in May of 2016 and it has proven to assist in both promotion, education, and engagement.

The total page **“LIKES”** on our Facebook as of December 31, 2019 = 1018 This is almost double 2018

December 31, 2018 = 595. This is an increase of 203 from 2017.

The total **“FOLLOWERS”** on our Facebook as of December 31, 2019= 1061 (2018= 599)



Other Social Media

INSTAGRAM: Started in August 24, 2017

TRIP ADVISOR: #7 things to do in Sault Ste. Marie with a 4.8 - star rating and 98% positive reviews

GOOGLE BUSINESS, MUSEIST: www.museist.com





MAINTENANCE, RESTORATION, and ASSET MANAGEMENT

During 2019, the Historic Sites Board approved a further study to be completed on the Site and Facilities to assess the conditions. This report, in conjunction with City of Sault Ste. Marie Asset Management review, was then further utilized to formulate priorities in the Maintenance and Restoration projects required to maintain the integrity of the buildings and grounds. The reports identified the following critical items, for which City Council approved funding towards these items. The Board also approved applications to Parks Canada National Cost Sharing Program and Rural Agricultural Development funds, to leverage more funding in order to properly complete the priority projects. These applications have deadlines in early 2020.

- Four chimneys on the Ermatinger Old Stone House: repointing and mortar fixes. Repointing of front steps and back basement stairs.
- Correct basement leakage: the exposed walls in the basement of the EOSH show, parging at grade level and efflorescence on walls from grade level to floor, – excavation, waterproofing, and drainage required.
- Repaint and putty windows and other wood trim elements (mutton bars & re-putty) on both the Ermatinger Old Stone House and the Clergue Blockhouse. Many windows seem to look as if the putty and mutton bars are not supporting the glass. Wood framing is rotting and showing signs of punkie wood. Front portico columns have wood rot and cedar shingle roofing requires replacing.



Further to the 2019 / 2020 project the studies also confirmed the following needs:

- 1) Roof(s): Cedar shakes on Blockhouse and Ermatinger house are showing signs of curving and drying. Will require an inspection to further determine when maintenance or replacement is required.
- 2) Blockhouse windows and log chinking – showing signs of drying out and loss of plaster – possible wood rot occurring. Window framing eroding and mutton bars deteriorating – glass panes loose - building has settled and cracks occurring.
- 3) Summer Kitchen log walls – localized deterioration in some logs. Last repair completed in 2005. Localized repairs should be completed to decrease future costs to repair. Issue is that this is a laborious job and takes a specialized skill.
- 4) Shed at Auxiliary Kitchen door – softwood shed requires replacing or dismantling. Wood siding needs replacing, roof needs repair, and building has shifted. Inside floor needs replacing.
- 5) Front door of EOSH – threshold has dried out and is cracking. Wood needs to be restored or replaced, and painted.
- 6) Exterior boardwalks: Continuous maintenance required annually, to repair or replace. Boardwalks pose a Health & Safety risk, for people walking off edges, and the main issue is that people find boards very slippery when they are not totally dry.
- 7) Queen Street white picket fence. Annual spring inspection will be required to determine which boards require replacing and what requires painting. Gate and latch will also need maintenance work.
- 8) Split rail fence around the south and east perimeter requires some posts to be re-wired, and split rails to be fixed and /or replaced. Some areas of the fence require building up with more rails.



COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT

Since the building of the Heritage Discovery Centre, and the opening of the Site year-round, the collection and the management of the artifacts and archives has been a project that far too often gets put on hold. A concentrated effort began in early March 2019 to pull everything out of storage in the attic and take inventory. Due to staff changes, the project once again was put on hold. The concentrated effort of the archives and artifacts will continue in April and May 2020.



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POLICIES and GOVERNANCE

In maintaining the Museum Standards set forth by the Province, the Historic Sites Board reviews the policies on a rotating basis (usually every 5 years), including Strategic Planning.

2019 Review included:

- Strategic Plan: Key Strategies & New Directions
- Partnership with City of SSM on the Cultural Plan
- Some review of Collections Policy
- Some review of Volunteer Policy & Risk Management
- Some review of Site Use Policy & Filming contracts



SUMMARY

As per the Historic Sites Board by-law this report shall be submitted annually to City Council as well as with the application to Community Museums Operating Grant – Grants Ontario.

∞ **THE END** ∞

