

Markham Museum exhibit examines town's history from prehistoric days

BY PATRICK MCALPINE
Special

You can become a part of history at the Markham Museum and Historic Village.

The museum, on Hwy. 48 north of 16th Avenue, unveils the Faces and Places in Markham's History exhibit on Friday. The exhibit traces

the town's history dating back to around 2500 B.C.

"The exhibit offers a broad overview of our town's history and how we fit in it,"

says curator Cathy Molloy.

Artifacts shown range from Iroquois spearheads to artillery used in First and Second World Wars to kitchen appliances from the 1950s.

"My favourite artifacts are probably the prisoner

boxes," says Ms Molloy, describing the boxes made by local prisoners during the Mackenzie Rebellion in 1835. Molloy is also partial to the letters sent by Markham soldiers during wartime.

The social and economic effects of conflicts is also

explored using hands-on games and activities.

Other displays which Molloy hopes will be popular are a miniature model of an early 1600s Iroquois village and a replica of a tent used by the town's Berczy settlers in which kids can play.

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The Government of Ontario has offered OPSEU members a fair and reasonable wage offer over three years. This offer is similar to those already accepted by other Ontario public service unions. OPSEU has rejected this offer and is now on strike. The Government remains available to return to the table at any time.

The Government's offer includes:

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- a 5.96 per cent raise for all staff over a three-year contract;
- a one per cent raise in the first year in exchange for productivity and efficiency gains; and
- an overall raise of three per cent over three years for staff who are at the maximum of their salary ranges, based on performance. Some 70 per cent of OPSEU staff are currently at the maximum of their salary grid and would be eligible for this increase.

In addition:

- an immediate 10 per cent raise for nurses;
- an immediate eight per cent raise for ambulance dispatchers;
- an immediate eight per cent raise for scientists;
- additional compensation to Waste and Water Treatment Operators and mechanics employed by the Ontario Clean Water Agency to recognize credentials upgrading;
- an increase in shift premiums for non-correctional employees to 78 cents per hour for hours worked between 5 p.m. and 7 a.m. to better reflect market rates; and
- a one per cent pay-for-performance pool for employees who are at the maximum of their salary ranges.

In addition, the Government also offers a competitive benefit and pension package.

Our offer puts real money in our employees' pockets. Visit the web calculator to see what it means at www.ontarioservicesupdate.com and follow the links under "Employer's Offer to OPSEU"