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STOROWTON VILLAGE MUSEUM GIFT SHOP GRAND REOPENING SET FOR MARCH 15

A grand reopening will introduce the community to the newly remodeled Storowton Village Museum Gift Shop on Sunday, March 15. Starting at 10am, visitors will finally be able to see what's new inside the shop that was closed for remodeling over the winter. This celebration will coincide with the museum's annual Maple Harvest Day & Pancake Breakfast event that runs until 3pm that day.

"We are excited to open our re-imagined Gift Shop here at Storowton. It's fresh, filled with new products and we look forward to it continuing to be a place where the community shops to get gifts and those perfect little things you can't find anywhere else," said Chelsea Viens, Storowton Retail & Business Manager.

Visitors will find handpicked items from home and office decor to fashion accessories, wedding gifts and more. Chala handbags and wallets will be back by popular demand and a new line of baby and children's gifts will be featured. The Gift Shop will again be the home of The Big E Book and the colorful Eastern States Exposition-West Springfield tartan in new products like clutches, coin purses, tissue holders and keychain wristlets. The museum also plans to introduce a line of Storowton and Big E-centric products, which will include sterling silver bracelets, tote bags, tee shirts and more.

"The shop will be more cohesive in style. We'll also have an area of hand-forged items made by the blacksmiths who work in our Village," Viens said.

Storowton Village has presented a gift shop for visitors since the 1930s when the museum opened. The shop permanently moved into the Phillips House, the red building which also serves as the main administrative building for the museum, in the early 1980s. Viens shared that the renewed mission of the shop is to support local and regional artisans in the six New England states represented by Eastern States Exposition. "We support these small businesses each autumn at the Fair and we want to do that all year round."

Since the store will reopen on Maple Harvest Day, visitors will be able to purchase New England-made maple products from Ben's Sugar Shack, Wood's Vermont Syrup Company and Fuller's Sugarhouse. Items featured this year include maple sugar, candies, jelly beans, taffy,



sprinkles, as well as traditional and gourmet syrups with flavors like ghost pepper, vanilla bean, aged rum barrel and smoked maple. The Village's very own *Maple Harvest Sampler Cookbook* will also be available for purchase.

Storowton's Gift Shop hours are Monday - Friday from 9am - 5pm, with extended hours starting in May to include Saturdays. For more information about the Storowton Village Museum Gift Shop, visit storowtonvillage.com or call 413-205-5051.

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ABOUT STOROWTON VILLAGE MUSEUM

Storowton Village Museum, an educational arm of Eastern States Exposition (501(c) (3) not-for-profit organization) and located on its grounds in West Springfield, Mass., presents hands-on school programs and guided tours of its historic buildings throughout the year as well as seasonal 19th century-themed events. For more information, visit storowtonvillage.com or call 413-205-5051.