



SHAKOPEE HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



This beautiful sculpture was built by the Irish people in their own country to honor the American Choctaw Indian tribe. They were grateful because in 1847 the Choctaw people sent money to Ireland when they learned that Irish people were starving due to the potato famine. The Choctaw themselves were living in hardship and poverty, having recently endured the Trail of Tears.

And that is a lesson in how to be a person in this world.

Kindred Spirits is a large stainless steel outdoor sculpture in Bailick Park in Midleton, County Cork, Ireland. The shape of the feathers is intended to represent a bowl of food

Holmes Street Tunnel Mural Project



For more information on the Holmes Street Tunnel Mural Project, please go to page 4.

What's Been Happening?

Monthly presentations have happen once a month at the Community Center. On August 16, 2022 a presentation on **Planes, Trains, and Automobiles: Transportation in Early Shakopee; In the Shadows: Servants and Other Workers in Early Shakopee** on September 13; and **Indians and Immigrants: Dakota People and Settlers-Colonists in Early Shakopee** on October 18 happened, with between 25 to 45 people there.

Two other presentations happening are the **Hočokata Ti** museum on Saturday, Nov. 5th and **Old Town, New Town: Shakopee in the Last 50 Years** on November 15th. More on **Hočokata Ti** see page 7.

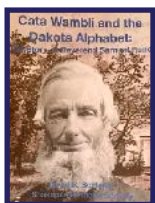
David Schleper gave a presentation on **Women in Early Shakopee** at the **Book Lover's Club** at Dangerfield's on September 15. A tour of **Calvary Cemetery** happened from 10 am to noon on October 1, 2022. And on October 21, the Shakopee Heritage Society with Liz Lundin and David Schleper attended the **Senior Expo** in Prior Lake.

On October 8, 2022, the Shakopee Heritage Society had a meeting at the Shakopee Library, where Tom Suel talked about his 45 years of experience working at Valleyfair! What a fun event!



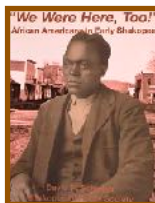
Presentations Coming Up

Here is the list of the History of Shakopee Series from David Schleper of the Shakopee Heritage Society. The monthly presentations are on a Tuesday, and are free. Usually about 40 people attended. For the last 3 years, the monthly meetings have been fun! If questions, contact Mary Feltmann at 952-233-9507. SHS is at shakopeeheritage.org. Presentations (free) are at the Shakopee Community Center.



Cata Wambli and the Dakota Alphabet: The Story of Reverend Samuel W. Pond

January 10, 2023, 1-2 pm



"We Were Here, Too! African Americans in Early Shakopee

February 14, 2023, 1-2 pm



For the Good of the Woman: The Minnesota Correctional Facility in Early Shakopee

March 14, 2023, 1-2 pm



Sparkling! Industry and People in Early Shakopee

April 11, 2023, 1-2 pm



Shakopee Heritage Society Annual Meeting

The Shakopee Heritage Society annual meeting is on Saturday, January 14 from Noon until 2 pm. After a short meeting, Bill Wermerskerchen (father of Billy Wermerskirchen, who is now owner of Bill's Toggery. Bill had wonderful memories of growing up in Shakopee, and he will share his experiences! The presentation is worth it!

With a presentation by Bill Wermerskerchen!

Volunteers Needed



- The Shakopee Heritage Society needs more members. Please share this newsletter with others, and encourage them to join. Cost is \$20 a year, and that includes 4 newsletters and 24 brochures every 3 months! What a deal!
- SHS needs more people in the SHS Board. Please consider joining! It's fun, and the board meetings usually includes some food!
- Do you have computer skills? The SHS could use help getting information on the on-line site! Contact the SHS at 952-693-3865 if interested!
- Shakopee Heritage Society is looking for a free storage area for some of the Shakopee Heritage Society items. If you have storage, please let us know!

Pathways of Shakopee History Project



Over the past few years, the Pathways of Shakopee History project included 10 trail signs on the south side of Memorial Park. Nine new signs, focused on the Dakota who were here first, the Faribault family, and the Pond family are finished. Now the SHS is working with the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community to make sure the signs, which are three years old, are current with the information. David Schleper has been meeting with Andy Vig, Javier Avalos, and Margo Gavle Prescott. The SHS is also getting approval for putting the signs in the park. The SHS is also working with Dahlen Signs to design and building the signs. The goal is to get the signs at Memorial Park sometime in April 2023. The Shakopee Heritage Society will continue to let you know what is happening.

"When the grandmothers speak, the earth will be healed."
- Hopi Proverb

Holmes Street Tunnel Mural Project

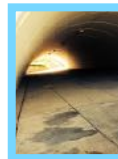
In 2015, with the help of more than 400 volunteers, 50 donors, and professional mural artist Tony Stafki, a 6,500-square-foot mural was completed in the pedestrian tunnel connecting downtown Shakopee to the Minnesota Riverfront trails.

Laura Pecaut on left



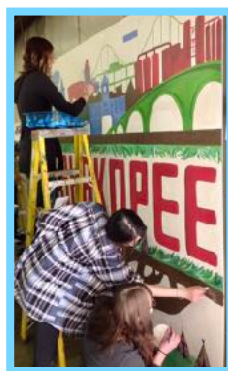
Artist Tony Stafki

Starting in 2014, a group of people, including members of the Shakopee Heritage Society, met with members of the Main Street Shakopee business and advocacy and revitalization group with Laura Pecaut, the coordinator. ***If This Walls Could Talk***, an event during the late summer happened in downtown Shakopee, including a presentation about the names of Shakopee by David R. Schleper.



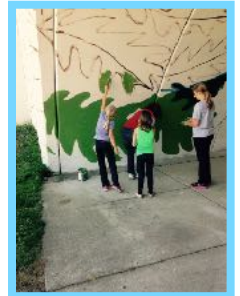
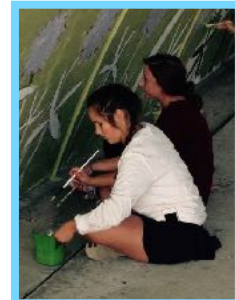
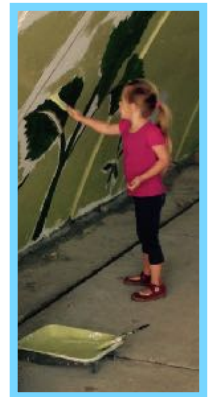
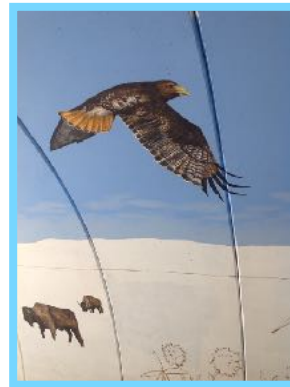
On March 21, 2015, in the building now O'Brien's Pub, the group hosted a painting contest to raise funds and vote on a design idea. The winning design came from a diverse Shakopee High School student group calling itself the Paintbrush Sabers.

The Main Street group was a community driven organization, and with the painting contest and a popular Kickstart fundraisers raised more than \$5000 for the project. According to an article *Community Effort Brings Mural to Life* by Cristeta Boarini in the ***Shakopee Valley News*** on September 18, 2015, donations of paint and materials from the local businesses and the Shakopee Police Department made the mural project ready to go.



Five various groups design possible murals in the area later called O'Brien's Pub. A group of Shakopee Public High School students in the Advance Placement Art class won. Tony Stafki met with the team, along with two public input sessions for the public to discuss the design.

Shakopee Police Chief Jeff Tate noted, "It really shows how much people care, how much ownership and pride they have for Shakopee."



The students who won the contest worked with Stafki to transform the design concept into a 6,500-square-foot mural that spans the length of the tunnel, spilling out over the tunnel headwall.

Many volunteers, about 500, helped paint the tunnel, including Andy Vig (middle top), students from the high school, and younger people from Shakopee.

According to artist Tony Stafki, “Art is such a powerful way to convey the past, present and future simultaneously in a fun way. I am honored to be working with the Shakopee community on this large public mural.”



As an extra measure, the Police Department donated a clear anti-graffiti coating on the mural project. The coating prevents spray paint or Sharpie ink from adhering to a surface, so vandalism can be wiped off with a soapy sponge. So far, the mural has not been tagged.



As visitors go through the tunnel, they move through Shakopee's history., tied together by a big oak tree. As the south entrance, homage to the city's Shakopee Mdewakanton roots are showcasing historical drawing of Šakpe II, dwellings, positioned as the roots of Shakopee with the village of Tínta Otun̄we. Many of the animals are those from years ago. Tony Stafki and others met with members of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community to learn about the area before the white people arrived.

As the visitors continue through the tunnel, they moved through the fist settlers-colonists, along with the railroad, and steamboats. The mural ends at the north side with the modern downtown, with various buildings from the present and the past.

One more fun fact....if you look close, you will find a rat, in memory of the rats that used to be in downtown Shakopee, and a recognition of the children who used to get 5 cents per dead rat!

The oak leaves symbol the growth of the city of Shakopee.



Don't forget annual membership renewal is in January, 2023. Cost is \$20 a year for the newsletter, 96 brochures, and more!

Trip to Hočokata Ti



On Saturday, *Wi lake Warži* (November) 5th, 2022, eleven people from the Shakopee Heritage Society had a two hour tour of the Hočokata Ti at the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community. With a fascinating tour with Javier and Cindy as our guide, the Shakopee Heritage Society members learned more about the history of the Dakota, who are still here today.



The exhibits, Mdewakanton: Dwellers of The. Spirit Lake, provides visitors with a cultural experience that enhances their knowledge and understand of the Mdewakanton Dakota people and their history.

Donna Lake, like others in the group, noted that having a guided tour led by a Cultural Interpreter really made the exhibit perfect. It gave us time to ask questions, learned more about the people then and now, and really made the day wonderful. Our Cultural Interpreters, Javier and Cindy, were wonderful at telling the stories and asking questions without judgement. A great day!



November is Native American Heritage Month. On November 17 from 5 to 7 pm, a guided tour of the exhibit and collections are available, Costs \$12, including a food sampling experience from Mazopiya. Preregistration is required at 952-233-9151.

Shakopee Heritage Society
2109 Boulder Pointe
Shakopee, MN 55379

President: David R. Schleper

Past-President: Lois Wendt **Vice-President:**

Treasurer: Melissa Whiting

Secretary: Donna Lane **Trustees:** Liz Lundin, Joanne Musick & Sandy Olson

Talk to Us!

Facebook: [shakopeeheritage](#)

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