



Message from the President . . .

Happy Beginning of Summer!

Hope everyone had a great Memorial Day weekend and a fun ‘unofficial’ kick-off to the summer. The weather certainly cooperated, and I happily enjoyed spending time with my family, it was great having my cousins, nephew, kids, grandkids, and Dad around; four generations together, doesn’t get any better in my opinion! Managed to get that spring cleaning done, too which I most certainly did not enjoy, a clean house is just an evil necessity!

The museum had a successful opening. We enjoyed welcoming visitors during the Dancing in the Street party in Sans Souci the weekend before our traditional Memorial Day opening. During our ‘official’ opening we unveiled a Lego model of the museum. This wonderful and unique model was designed and built by Dan Orlando, and we are grateful for his talent and donation. As always, I encourage everyone to visit the museum, there is always something to see.



Left: Lego replica of Historical Museum

Below: Dan Orlando shares tips on build Lego models

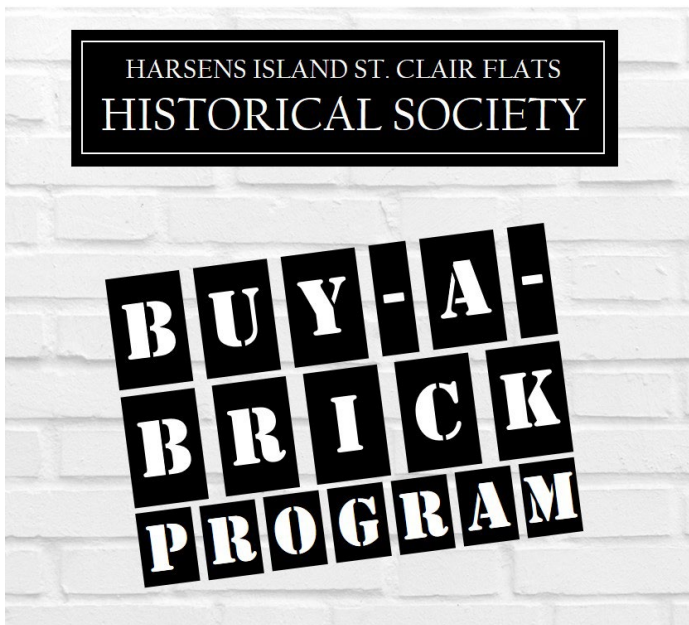


Continued on page 3 . . .

Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Historical Society Building Renovation BUY-A-BRICK Program

The past three years we celebrated the completion of several renovation projects; in 2020 the Clayton Evans Room Addition, in 2021 the Karen and Drew Peslar Library and in 2022 the large exhibit space at the entrance to the museum named the Nancy Boulton / Gary Grout Room.

To help maintain the museum's infrastructure and a healthy financial position for our Historical Society, we are reactivating our BUY-A-BRICK Program.



Members and friends can support the Historical Society and assure the continuance of the museum by donating \$350 to our BUY-A-BRICK program. Donors will be recognized or may designate a memorial on one of the bricks inside the museum. Of course, they may remain anonymous if they wish. Donations of any amount to support the renovation efforts are welcome and appreciated. To sign up, or if you have questions, contact Bob Williams at 248-388-0465 or xharpspah@aol.com.

BUY-A-BRICK Order Form is included at the end of this newsletter.

Volunteer to be a Museum Host

Volunteers are needed to work as hosts this summer to maintain these hours. If you can volunteer for two or three hours on any Saturday or Sunday this summer, please contact us.

Hosting simply means being there to greet visitors, answer questions if you can, and record sales in our Museum Shop. Many volunteers have found that it is also an opportunity to spend a little time learning more about our interesting Island history!

If you are interested in volunteering, or would like more information, please contact Corinne Trexler at 313-530-9173.

If you are interested in volunteering, PLEASE JOIN US FOR BRUNCH
AND LEARN MORE ABOUT BEING A HOST!
June 10 at 11:00 am at Museum

continued from page 1 . . . President's Letter

Saturday, June 10th at 11:00 AM, we are hosting a volunteer brunch. The purpose is twofold; 1) to thank the volunteers who are at the museum during our hours each weekend during the season, and 2) to recruit and provide a short orientation to anyone new and interested in taking a shift at the museum. The only charge for the small brunch is to commit and sign up for one two-hour shift during the summer.

As always, thank you for your support!

Joyce

Joyce Hassen, President



Dan Orlando brought in some of his models to show the museum visitors, McDonald's, and The Edmund Fitzgerald. Dan also made mini kits of lighthouses and freighters to sell in the museum store. The kits were a hit and the store sold out quickly.

Island Memories Written by Astrid Delitzsch (Del) Heleotis 1925 – 2021

In 2009, Del wrote down some of her favorite island memories. These memories were short, thoughtful, and funny. I want to share some of these with you. This story is entitled **Life Cycles**, written in June of 2009.

Life Cycles - A wonderous new world greeted us each day upon wakening on the Island. The first symphony of summer was from the robin family nesting and chirping in the eavestrough by the side door with a wary mother-to-be guarding her treasured blue eggs. The adjacent flower bed produced a steady supply of worms when the babies made their appearance. She did not seem to appreciate our comings and goings, but whose house is it the anyway. Suddenly each year the nest emptied, and babies were on the deck and grass.



The next component of the symphony was the intermittent slightly raspy almost anguished sound, coming from the grass or driveway, produced by an olive brown bird fluttering, and hopping on the ground while dragging one extended wing. Nearby we found a shallow round cavity containing four (usually) brown oval “stones” that were eggs. That was our discovery of a kildeer protecting her eggs. Her choice of nesting locations on the driveway or playing field were always hazardous and Connie drove stakes by each one as a warning for cars and the lawn mower. I am sure this lowered the neonatal fatality rate.



The avian reproductive cycle progressed with the appearance of a mother duck always under a bushy plant on the property or flower bed seemingly oblivious of our noisy presence. Her camouflage matched the color of the soil making her almost invisible. Her new-born ducklings spent minimal time in the nest and seemed almost instantly ambulatory and afloat. Of course, this mom had to come up with instant stale bread to feed the ducks brood – I had to keep my brood happy.

Next on the annual reproductive scene appeared the baby rabbits across the canal on the back lots and in the vegetable garden – not so “cute” then. In those days there was an abundance of frogs on the Island most evidenced by the welcome rhythmic nocturnes at dark. With the frogs came the tadpoles and the discovery of the real purpose of empty cottage cheese cartons on the kitchen counter.



continued on page 5 . . .

continued from page 4 . . . Island Memories

Our next birthing awareness was brought to us by Florence DeFever, a retired biology teacher and naturalist who moved into a cottage at 2140 South Channel. Her “backyard” was the entire marsh from North Channel to La Croix. She loved teaching and sharing her vast knowledge and love of nature with young people. Luckily, she latched on to my two. One of her special interests was herpetology, or to be fancy --- snakes. She had a healthy respect for the hazards, no repugnance, only understanding of their role in nature. She identified many snakes and one day found some eggs that she hatched in a bowl on her kitchen table. The birth was greatly anticipated for days. The call came at dinner. The meal was abandoned. Florence, sat at her kitchen table, ready with manicure scissors and tweezers, was the mid-wife. With a little snip here and there on the cracking shell, the tiny wigglers appeared on the paper towel operating table. More birth miracles!

Next in the replenishing cycle of our island world was the birth of a horse. Joanne’s mare, Star, was bred and due to drop her foal late June of 1971, just before we were to leave for camp in Greece. We were eagerly anticipating the birth before we left. The call came the midnight before our departure and we were at the barn in minutes but Shadow a slippery, shiny, silvery gray filly arrived seconds before and was struggling to get to her feet, assisted by Joanne. A lot larger life form than tadpoles, birds, and snakes!

Tashmoo Park Was Popular Before the Tashmoo Steamer Existed

Articles in this section are copied from the Tashmoo Park Timeline, researched, and complied by Michele Komar

What came first the *Tashmoo* Steamer or Tashmoo Park? The *Tashmoo* Steamer definitely made her mark in history so it would be easy to assume that the park was named after the steamer. Here are a couple articles referencing the purchase and creation of Tashmoo Park in 1897. The *Tashmoo* Steamer was launched January 2, 1900.

Apr 20, 1897 – *Detroit Free Press* - Page 5

A NEW UP-RIVER RESORT

**Messrs. Parker, Millen and Others
Are Fitting it Up.**

Last fall the owners of the steamers Greyhound and City of Toledo—Messrs. Parker, Millen, and others—bought sixty acres of Harsen's island, midway between Maple Leaf and Sans Souci, and they have since fitted it up for a people's pleasure ground. A large pavilion and rustic seats by the score will be featured, and boathouses will also be erected. The plat is finely wooded and has hundreds of feet of river frontage. The dock is large enough to accommodate any steamer, and substantially made. The pretty spot has been named Tashmoo, after an Indian chief, and to this place the two steamers will carry church and other excursions this season.

July 23, 1897 – *Detroit Free Press* - Page 7

A WISE MOVE

**Star-Cole Line Made It in Creating
Tashmoo Park.**

Purchasing a strip of land at the head of Harsen's Island, spending a few thousands improving and beautifying it and naming it Tashmoo Park, has proven a wise move on the part of the Star-Cole line. Heretofore the line has been compelled to land its excursions at any old point along the river the excursion managers could secure for the time. Once in a while the destination was a fairly good one, oftener it was not. Now the people start with a full knowledge of the place they are going to, and they are certain that all the accompaniments of a good excursion ground—plenty of waterfront, boats, fishing tackle, pavilions, dance hall, etc.—are there waiting for them.

continued on page 6 . . .

continued from page 4 . . . Tashmoo Park

During the Golden Era, Tashmoo Park was a popular destination from many organizations, groups, and churches. Here are some examples of the many religious groups that visited Tashmoo Park.

ROSARY CHURCH PICNIC

One Thousand People Went to Tashmoo Yesterday.

Complete success from every point of view was recorded yesterday by the picnic at Tashmoo Park of the Church of the Holy Rosary. The weather was perfect, the crowd was large, numbering about 1,000, there was plenty of fun for young and old and not an accident of any sort occurred to mar anybody's pleasure. The excursion was given under the auspices of branch No. 67, C. M. B. A., and will net the church as a benefit about \$250. The steamer Greyhound was laden with a merry crowd when it left, and, except that a few tired feelings were scattered about among members of the party, no change in demeanor was noticeable when the boat landed at the pier at 9:30 p.m.

July 24, 1897 – *Detroit Free Press* - Page 2

St. Boniface commander, Knights of St. John, will hold their ninth annual excursion to Tashmoo Park on August 10.

July 25, 1897 – *Detroit Free Press* - Page 17

The thirty-seventh annual excursion of St. Peter's parish will take place at Tashmoo Park Thursday, August 5, on the steamer Greyhound. A lengthy programme of sports has been prepared to make the outing a pleasant one.

July 25, 1897 – *Detroit Free Press* - Page 8

The C. M. B. A. of Holy Rosary church will give an excursion to Tashmoo Park on Thursday. Frs. Van Antwerp and Coyle, together with the officers of the association, have outlined an interesting programme and a large attendance is expected.

Save the Date – August 20 at 2:00 pm

Author LeRoy A. Rubinas Shares History of the Steamship J. B. Ford

Join us to hear LeRoy A. Rubinas discuss his observations over the years of the Steamship J. B. Ford. Mr. Rubinas has a couple books out on the vessel and will be joined by well-known marine historian and author Wes Oleszewski who will talk about his tour of the vessel in 2001. Mr. Rubinas has had a website about the J. B. Ford since 2006 www.steamshipjbfordhistoricalsurvey.org. Mr. Rubinas studied & photographed the ship from 1991 after his first tour with the Chicago Maritime Society, until 1993 when he left Chicago to study engineering at Great Lakes Maritime Academy. Since those early years he has toured the vessel various times and watched it change over time. This is a chance to meet and greet the authors and learn what they know from touring this once proud ship.

Election of Board of Directors

The process of electing the Board of Directors for the Historical Society is officially underway. All Historical Society members should have received their ballots in the email. Complete your ballot and return using the mailing envelop provided. Ballots must be completed by July 7, 2023.

Harsens Island Historical Society Calendar 2023

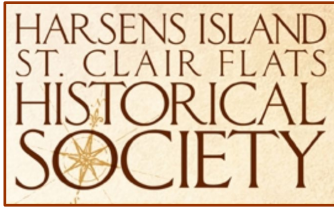
PLEASE NOTE: All events and locations in the following schedule are **tentative**

Date	Day	Time	Event
June 10	Saturday	9:30 AM	Board Meeting at Museum
June TBD	TBD	TBD	Special Event – Speaker TBD
July 8	Saturday	9:30 AM	Board Meeting at Museum
July TBD	TBD	TBD	Special Event – Speaker TBD
August 12	Saturday	9:30 AM	Board Meeting at Museum
August 12	Saturday	10:00 AM	Annual Membership Meeting at the Museum
August 20	Sunday	2:00 PM	Author LeRoy A. Rubinas talks about J.B. Ford
September 2	Saturday	11:00 AM	Labor Day Parade
September 9	Saturday	9:30 AM	Board Meeting at the Museum
October 7	Saturday	10:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Annual Pie Sale
October 14	Saturday	9:30 AM	Board Meeting at the Museum
November TBD	Sunday	2:00 PM	Remembrance Edmund Fitzgerald
November 11	Saturday	9:30 AM	Board Planning Meeting via Zoom
December 2	Saturday	10:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Cookie Walk
December 9	Saturday	9:30 AM	Board Meeting via Zoom



Museum Hours

Summer Schedule (June, July, August, September)
Saturdays 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Sundays 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Winter Schedule (October through April)
Closed but Open by appointment



A publication of the Harsens Island St.
Clair Flats Historical Society

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 44
Harsens Island MI 48028

Museum Address:

3058 S. Channel Dr.

www.harsensislandhistory.org

HISCFHS Board of Directors 2023

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Bob Williams

President

Joyce Hassen

1st Vice President

Chris Knight

2nd Vice President

Ellen Probst

Treasurer

Corinne Trexler

Secretary

Nancy Bonacquisti

Directors

Terry Wiggins

Sue Wrobel

Rebecca Verschave



The historical society is looking to add to its collection. We accept donations of artifacts, photos, documents, and stories related to the Island and surrounding area. If you would like to add your family history to the museum archives, we can help you capture your memories for future generations.

Please contact our curator; Chris Knight at
chris.knight@comcast.net

Is your house more than 100 years old?

The Michigan Heritage Home™ program recognizes houses that were constructed at least 100 years ago and are in substantially original condition. That designation comes with a handsome cast-aluminum plaque that lets everyone know that your home has its own rich heritage and historical significance. This distinguished plaque, authorized by the Historical Society of Michigan, will remind both new and longtime community members of your home's contribution to your shared heritage.



For more information click here to go to the

[Michigan Heritage Program](https://www.hsmichigan.org/awards/michigan-heritage-home)

<https://www.hsmichigan.org/awards/michigan-heritage-home>

Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Historical Society Building Renovation BUY-A-BRICK Order Form

I / We would like to 'BUY-A-BRICK' to support the Museum.

Indicate on the three lines below the inscription you would like on the brick using up to 25 letters, spaces, or special characters per line.

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Print Your Name _____

Your Phone Number _____ - _____ - _____

Your email address _____ @ _____

_____ **Enclosed is my check for \$350 made payable to HISCFHS.**

_____ **I will not be purchasing a brick at this time but have enclosed a donation for the renovation.**

Payments should be made payable to "HISCFHS" with "BRICK" on the memo line and mailed to the HISCFHS at P.O. Box 44, Harsens Island, MI 48028.



PO Box 44
 Harsens Island
 MI 48028
 www.harsensislandhistory.org

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2023

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Primary Mailing Address: _____ Member No. _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Spouse Cell: _____

E-Mail Address: _____ Spouse E-Mail: _____

Additional Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Additional Phone: _____ Membership Type: _____

Annual Renewal Dues:		Lifetime Dues:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual (1 Member Only)	\$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Individual	\$300.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family (1-2 Adults + Children < 18)	\$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Family	\$500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Business	\$50.00		

Building Donation: \$ _____ Other Donation: \$ _____

If desired, please specify use: _____

Newsletters are emailed to members. If you require newsletters via postal mail, please write a note on your returned application.

Please complete and send with a check made payable to: **Harsens Island Historical Society.**

Mail to: Harsens Island St. Clair Historical Society, P.O. Box 44, Harsens Island, MI 48028

OFFICE USE ONLY:

Date received: _____

Check # _____ Amount \$ _____