

N E W S L E T T E R



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

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48028

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President's Message

Hi All,

Steam Whistle Project Update

As you can see when you are at the museum the steam whistle project continues to progress. The masonry is completed and the roof structure is in place. We still need to do roofing, painting, electrical and installation of the whistle and associated equipment. Though we had hoped to have it wrapped up and operational this summer season it is becoming apparent that may not be the case. We should be complete in late fall, but, that will be too late for an opening celebration during this summer.

Hosts Still Needed for the 2018 Season

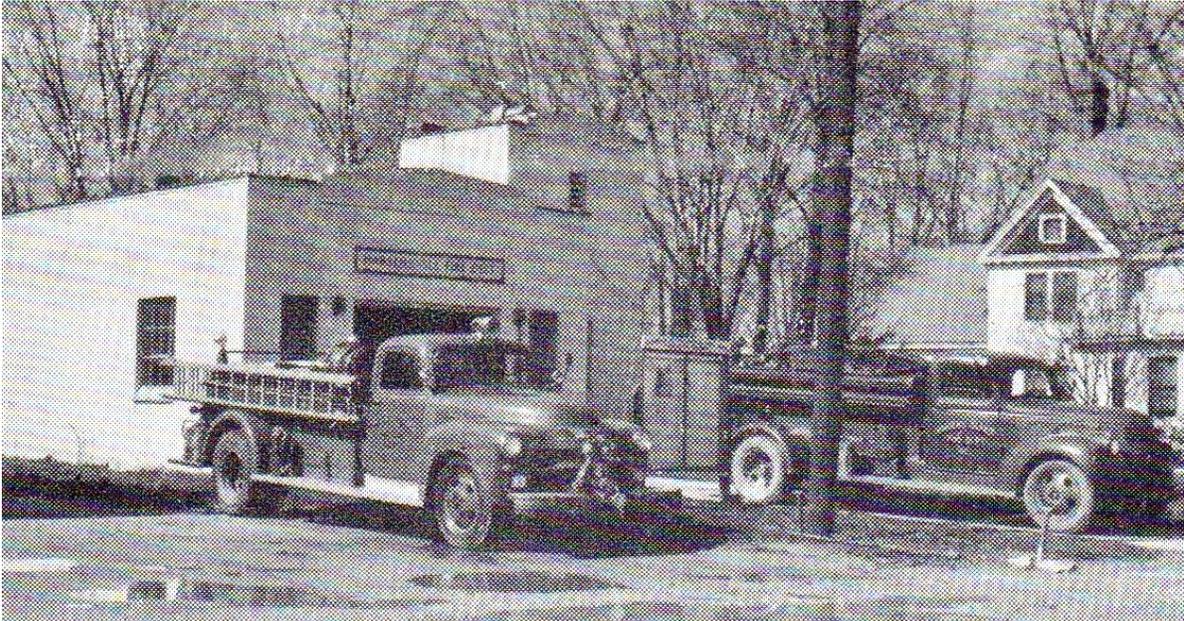
With the museum being open every weekend this summer and on weekdays for special visiting groups, the Society needs plenty of hosts to help out. Hosts open and/or close the museum for visitors and stay for a two to two-and-one-half hour session. No experience is needed. We are always happy to give new hosts a training session on the spot. Hosts learn about the opening and closing procedures and how to record sales from the museum store. Serving as a host is a great opportunity to meet and greet visitors to the museum which include your island neighbors as well as island visitors. Your time at the museum can also be a chance to become more familiar with our great collection of historical items on display or to sit down and read some of the great materials in the museum library. If you would like to give it a shot, please contact Nancy Boulton at 810-748-3802.

Building Addition Committee

As I mentioned in the June newsletter the Board is proceeding to investigate the possibility of putting an addition on the museum to give us more space for exhibits, storage, meetings and research activities. A building addition committee was formed and has already met a couple of times. In response to the committee's recommendations the Board has passed a motion to pursue the issue with the preparation of preliminary plans as needed for Township review and comment. If the project proceeds it would not be started until 2019 or 2020.

Annual Meeting This Month

Please join us at the museum on Saturday, August 18 for our annual meeting. We begin at 4:30 pm with wine and cheese and follow up at 5 pm with our membership meeting. This is an opportunity to celebrate our accomplishments, hear what is being planned and to give the Board your thoughts on our progress and the future of our organization. I hope to see you there.



The Harsens Island Fire Hall as it appeared in 1955.

July 3, 2018 was the 80th Anniversary of the dedication of the Fire Hall in which our museum is located. On this date in 1938 many Islanders gathered to celebrate the completion of the new Fire Hall. One person who was there that day to celebrate was Clayton Evans, our supporter and a member who passed away last year at the age of 100. Clayton loved to tell the story of the dedication and how the fire truck backed out of the new Fire Hall and rolled across the road, part-way into the South Channel. Clayton was directed to go home and get a tractor to help tow it out of the river. This and many other events in Harsens Island history can be found at the museum. Come see for yourself.

From the Curator

Members:

We're trying to set up an un-official boat builders group on the Island. We might gather at the Museum or at individual homes and try it year-round, if enough folks are here in the winter. If you are interested, email or call me.

Charles Miller, Curator
charles.miller7@icloud.com
810-748-7209



DID YOU MISS THIS?

On July 23 the thirty-foot canoe of the *Saginaw Voyageurs*, reenactors of the French fur traders who frequented this area, arrived on Harsens Island. During the days they were on the river visiting other sites nearby and giving us a good look at their “birch bark” canoe. The twelve men were dressed in period costumes, eating and sleeping as the original voyageurs did in the 18th and 19th centuries. On Monday and Tuesday evenings they camped on the Museum grounds where Islanders heard Voyageurs’ stories of the historic French trips to our area. On Tuesday evening, an audience of over 60 Islanders was treated to the music of *Trois Bouffons*. Dozens of audience members and Voyageurs joined together, following the *Bouffons*’ dancing instructions much to everyone’s delight. Edwin, one of our neighbors from Walpole Island, shared some amusing stories and taught us his native alphabet (126 letters!). The Voyageurs ended the evening with tales of times past, keeping us entertained and at times laughing until the mosquitoes finally sent us all home.



Museum Store



The Museum store has a few new items this year. We have a new T-shirt with “Keep Calm and Ferry On” printed to mimic the famous British poster from World War II which said “Keep Calm and Carry On.”



The Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Historical Society announces its 2018 Raffle!



1st prize: “Lightship Huron” print by Jim Clary

2nd Prize: One 2-night stay at Harsens Island Bed & Breakfast

3rd Prize: One book of ferry tickets

Tickets for the Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Historical Society 2018 Raffle are only

\$1 each (6 for \$5!)

and are available for purchase at the museum and other locations around the Island.

Drawing will be held September 1, 2018 at 2:00 at the Museum.

Winner need not be present to win.

You don't want to miss this!

What's happening in August with your Historical Society:

August- 4th - Saturday – 10:30 AM – Board/Membership meeting at the Museum

10th - Friday – Social hour – 6 to 8 PM at the Museum

18th – Saturday – 4:30 PM Wine and Appetizers at the museum.

5 to 6 PM Annual Membership meeting at the museum.

Historical Society upcoming events

Sept. - 14th – Friday – Social hour – 6 to 8 PM at the Museum. It's the last one, folks!



If you aren't currently a member, please consider joining the Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Historical Society

Membership Application 2018

Last Name: _____ First Name (1): _____ Spouse (2): _____

Only required for family Membership

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Cell (1): _____ Spouses Cell (2): _____

E-Mail: _____ Spouse E-Mail: _____

Please write e-mail address clearly.

Additional Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Additional Phone: _____

Annual Dues:

Individual (1 Member Only) \$20.00
 Family (1-2 Adults plus children under 18 years) \$30.00
 Business \$50.00

Life-time Dues

_____ Life Individual \$300.00
_____ Life Family \$500.00

Business Name: _____

BUILDING FUND DONATION: \$ _____

OTHER DONATION: \$ _____

STEAM WHISTLE PROJECT DONATION: \$ _____

If desired, please specify use:

Please complete this form and send with a check made payable to: "The Society" to P.O. Box 44, Harsens Island, MI 48028, or deposit in the letter slot at the museum at 3058 South Channel Drive, Harsens Island, MI 48028

New Member
 Renewal

OFFICE USE ONLY:

Date received: _____ Check # _____ Amount \$ _____

Board of Directors

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president@hiscfhs.org

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Susan Wrobel 810-748-3601

2nd Vice President

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Joyce Hassen 313-336-4675

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Nancy Bonacquisti – 248-840-3042

Directors:

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Terry Wiggins 810-923-7538
Mary Woodford 810-748-3571

Museum Curator

Chuck Miller 810-748-7209

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