

President's Letter

Mary Gruhl, President

In this newsletter we focus on the Kiosk Committee who have diligently been producing history panels to tell the story of our community for the past 5 years. These can be found in the Kiosk located in Wikdal Park. See their article for details on what they have accomplished.

This past year we celebrated some endings and beginnings all focused on fulfilling our mission of "...telling the compelling stories and preserving the historic buildings and culture of the Washburn area." Almost 5 years to the date of obtaining the Houghton Depot, restoration is complete. Over 75 students attended two-hour interactive programs this year to hear stories of the Omaha train running between Ashland and Bayfield. During May Preservation Month, community members and second and third grade students from the Washburn Elementary School visited and heard stories about the Bayfield County Courthouse. After producing 28 panels, the Kiosk committee is beginning the task of publishing a book. With a matching grant from the Washburn Community Education Foundation, we recently purchased our own sound and visual system so that we can provide our presenters and guests a better experience when they attend our eight annual Tony Woiak History Festival presentations. Thank you all for your continued support! You are each helping us keep our heritage alive.

Buildings and Sites Committee

Karen Novachek

The Committee focuses on

- *collaborating with community organizations concerned with preserving and safeguarding historic buildings and sites,
- *encouraging and supporting building and site improvements, and
- *celebrating May Preservation Month.

The members of the Committee are Mary Cook, Sandy Johnson, Karen Novachek, Ginny Pedersen, and Matt Simoneau.

During 2023, three major activities have been accomplished:

FACADE IMPROVEMENT COMPLETION. Two businesses, Patsy's Bar and Grill and Chequamegon Picture Framing, received facade grants totaling \$10,000. Both establishments successfully completed their improvements projects.

HISTORIC DESIGNATION. The Washburn City Hall was officially recognized as a historic place. This 1893 building was originally the first library in the community. The brownstone addition occurred in the 1930's.

PRESERVATION MONTH. The Bayfield County Courthouse, completed in 1896, was featured during May 2023 Preservation Month. The 2024 Preservation Month activities will highlight the Washburn Cultural Center and Historic Museum which was constructed in 1890 and has an interesting history. Tentative plans for the May 2024 event include: a mayoral proclamation, building tours to include the museum, youth scavenger hunt focused on the structure and a presentation regarding what this landmark building has housed over 128 years. The detailed schedule of events will be available on the WHA website and Facebook page in March, 2024.

TELLING THE STORIES



Who, when and why are these men climbing the pole? Sometimes these mysteries are unsolvable. Take time to label your own photos so that future generations can tell your stories.

WHA Annual Board Meeting

We invite all our members to WHA's Annual Board Meeting at the Washburn Cultural Center on January 16 at 6:30 pm. This is a great opportunity to meet board members and offer suggestions. We are always looking for new ways to share our heritage with all the residents of the City of Washburn, Town of Washburn, Barksdale and Bayview.





The Kiosk Committee

Working to bring the stories to our community.

On September 21, 2020, in the heart of the covid pandemic, the WHA kiosk at Wikdal Park on the corner of 3rd Ave. and Bayfield Street was officially dedicated. Three of the four display windows tell the stories of Washburn. The window facing Bayfield Street is for the Washburn Chamber of Commerce to post current news and events.

Funds for the structure came from Eric R. Novachek's bequest to the city that specified it be used for the "promotion of Washburn." Eric was Karen Novachek's son.



Ginny Pedersen, Patra Holter, Sharon Stewart and Lynn Adams at work creating the panels that are placed in the Kiosk.

We gather information from the museum (Susan Mackreth is a valuable source), personal interviews, the internet, city hall archives and wherever we can find it.



Patra cleaning the Kiosk.

The display has been so successful that the Kiosk Committee was asked to assemble a book to share these stories of Washburn History. With funds from a grant from the Washburn Community Education Foundation we contracted Ros Nelson of Little Big Bay as our publisher. The design is taking shape, but we are still at the beginning of this process.

Meanwhile, we continue to create new historic panels. It is hard to believe that we have been working together with dedication for five years.

Obviously it is a labor of love.

The ongoing kiosk committee members — Lynn Adams, Patra Holter, Ginny Pedersen, and Sharon Stewart — evolved from a larger group who started researching and planning in 2018. The final design, composition of the panels, and site proposal were presented and approved by the City in December 2019. Mike Pedersen and Pete Dagsgard constructed the kiosk and it was painted by the kiosk committee.

The kiosk committee started meeting twice a week to develop panels for when the kiosk installation was complete. Three panels, Logs to Lumber, DuPont Legacy, and the Historical Museum, were in place when the kiosk was unveiled. The panels are changed monthly (weather permitting), so multiple panels are needed. As of this month, 28 panels are complete. Some recent ones include the marina, the coal dock, community medicine, Washburn churches and Washburn schools.



The Kiosk Committee visited the Washburn Iron Works to gather information for a new panel.

Bayview History Committee/Houghton Depot

Ella Cross

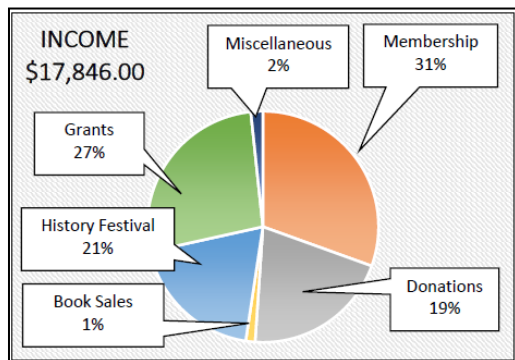
The Bayview History Committee marked its fifth year of restoration work on the Houghton Depot with our final meeting of the year on October 5, 2023. In 2023, the BHC was able to hire Timm Bailey who completed the restoration of the Depot chimney. This completes the last major physical restoration project. The flat car was restored and moved to the Depot where it sits on the track behind the restored Fairmont Speeder. The luggage cart is also restored. Thanks to Mike Bunch for the major restoration work on these three items with help from Paul Johnson. Inside the

Depot the potbelly stove, donated by Coke Lindsey, which is not a working stove, has been connected to the restored chimney. With these projects completed, visitors will get a sense of what it was like at the depot in its early history.

Fourth grade classes from Washburn, Bayfield and South Shore public schools, and Ambleside School in Ashland will come to the Depot in May, 2024. Open house dates for the summer of 2024 are June 29, July 13 and 27, August 10 and 24.

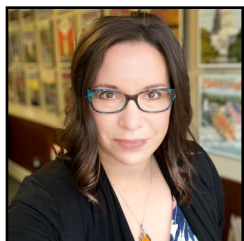


2023 Income/Expenses



We extend our sincere thank you for your continued support of WHA efforts to fulfill its mission.

Over the past 5 years, the Bayview History Committee raised nearly \$45,000 and spent \$42,000 to restore the Houghton Depot and to purchase educational materials for its May school programs and summer open houses.



Meet New Member:

Jamey Penney-Ritter

Jamey is an illustrator, photographer, and graphic designer

living just outside of Washburn. She was born, raised and educated in Superior, WI. After getting her BS in Communicative Arts and Sociology from UW-Superior she married her college sweetheart and moved to Bermuda for two years and then San Diego for seven. She settled back into life in Far North Wisconsin with her husband, son, and daughter in 2007. She was the marketing director for Big Top Chautauqua for eight seasons. Most recently, Jamey is the creator of her own collection of retro travel posters. She is active in the community and likes to donate her time, talent and energy to local nonprofits. "I've lived in a lot of places, but I prefer Washburn to them all."

The 2024 Tony Woiak History Festival

Who Was Tony Woiak? The Tony Woiak History Festivals share stories from our past, honoring Washburn native, Tony Woiak (1954-2011), a man who cherished his hometown and wrote several books about bygone days. He served as president of the Washburn Area Historical Society and also loved to make films, including homemade zombie movies.

The history festivals are supported by WHA membership dues and by a bargain admission price of just \$5. Most recently we were awarded a matching-funds grant from the Washburn Community Education Foundation to purchase audio/visual equipment that will optimize our presentations for the audience. Details for the 2024 winter festival series are included in this newsletter. Please note the venue is now "The Harbor Table," the new name of the Harborview Event Center. Our hard-working committee appreciates your support! David Bratley, Ella Cross, Andrew Grimm, Gary Holman, Sandy Johnson, Ginny Pedersen.

13TH ANNUAL TONY WOIAK WINTER History Festival

Students Free

HARBOR TABLE (FORMERLY HARBOR VIEW EVENT CENTER) — WASHBURN

ALL EVENTS TUESDAYS 7:00 PM

\$5

TUES. JAN. 9TH

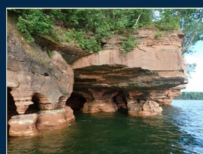
THE WASHBURN IRON WORKS/FOUNDRY



Raelyn Pearson, Corporate Treasurer of Washburn Iron Works, Inc. will start by asking questions like "What did you eat for breakfast?" Foundries touch everyone's lives, without realizing it. She will explain the history of Washburn Iron Works and how foundries are melted into our society.

TUES. JAN. 23RD

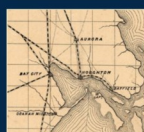
BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPES, ROCKS AND SOILS: HOW GEOLOGY HAS INFLUENCED LIFE IN THE CHEQUAMEGON REGION



Glacial ice melted out of northern Wisconsin 12,000 years ago and revealed the beautiful landscape on which life in the region would unfold. But long before glaciation, geologic processes created a diversity of rocks such as iron formation, brownstone and the bedrock roots of the beautiful scenery that have been important resources for society. **Dr. Tom Fitz**, Northland College Professor of Geoscience, will explore the history and characteristics of the land that have drawn people to this region for millennia.

TUES. FEB. 6TH

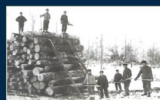
TRAILS & TOWNS BEFORE WASHBURN



Amorin Mello specializes in local pre-1860 history. He will explore maps and tell stories about the trails of ancients and settlers of townsites before Washburn was founded in 1883.

TUES. FEB. 20TH

HISTORY OF LOGGING IN NORTHERN WISCONSIN, 1882 - 1935



Lester Watters, President of Bayfield County Historical Association, will present historical photographs and explain early logging practices in the area where waterways and trains were used to move logs from the field to the local sawmills. Audience participation will be encouraged.

SPONSORED BY THE WASHBURN HERITAGE ASSOCIATION AND THE WASHBURN AREA MUSEUM



Visit our new Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/WashburnHeritage>



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If you are interested in any of our projects and would like to volunteer to help, or have ideas for new projects, please talk to any board member. You can join the Washburn Heritage Association by filling out the form below.

Visit our Website at

www.washburnheritage.org

Thank You for your Membership/Donation!

☐ \$20

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☐ \$30

Family

☐ \$50

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☐ \$ _____

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