

The SOCIETY

PAGES

HARSENS ISLAND / ST. CLAIR FLATS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Thank You to Our Members and Volunteers!

We appreciate your continued support throughout the year – whether it is through your time and efforts or through monetary contributions. We would especially like to thank our Board of Directors (highlighted in blue). They wear many hats- fundraising, chairing committees, running the museum, volunteering for almost every event. They are the face of The Society and together, we can make our goal of purchasing the Old Fire Hall a reality.

Deborah and David Addy
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 Kelly and David Glowski
 Sheri and Gerald Gordinier
 Marjorie and Norbert Gorski
 Lisa and Mark Graf
 Sondra and John Greene

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The Society Pages

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Join us on Facebook!

From the President

First Nations Peoples, Native Americans, Indians...are all names which we have heard and used. What is the appropriate name to use that is preferred by the peoples who occupied North America for many thousands of years before European settlers came to this land and whose descendants occupy this space today?

To help us all gain a better understanding and learn what is preferred by the descendants of these aboriginal peoples and to be respectful of their heritage...I consulted Wikipedia and reviewed some websites. Here is what I found (without turning this into a lengthy dissertation):

The term First Nations (most often used in the plural) has come into general use for the indigenous peoples of the Americas located in what is now Canada, except for the Arctic-situated Inuit, and peoples of mixed European-First Nations ancestry called Métis.

The Native American name controversy is a dispute about the acceptable terminology for the indigenous peoples of the Americas and broad subsets of these peoples, such as those sharing certain cultures and languages by which more discrete groups identify themselves.

In the 20th and 21st centuries, indigenous peoples in the Americas have been more vocal about the ways they wish to be referred to, pressing for the elimination of terms widely considered to be obsolete, inaccurate, or racist. During the latter half of the 20th century and the rise of the Indian rights movement, the United States government responded by proposing the use of the term "Native American," to recognize the primacy of indigenous peoples' tenure in the nation. The term has met with only partial acceptance. Other naming conventions have been proposed and used, but none are accepted by all indigenous groups. Typically, each name has a particular audience and political or cultural connotation, and regional usage varies.

Although use of the word "Indian" to refer to Native Americans is somewhat disfavored and there has been some controversy over appropriate terminology, such usage has persisted and is less controversial when referring to the Tribes. The word is often included in the names of the various tribes themselves. The word is used almost exclusively in US law.

The origin of the word "Indian" goes back to a 15th century misunderstanding: the earliest European explorers in the Americas did not know the Americas existed and thought they had landed near East Asia and the people they encountered were natives of the Indie...thus the word: "Indian" (I didn't know that...!)

We hope you will attend the First Nations Festival, August 11 and meet our **First Nations** neighbors from Walpole Island, CANADA and in the process learn more about their rich heritage and culture. Ask lots of questions and explore the culture of many thousands of years. Take some time to Google: *First Nations People and Native Americans*...do a little homework, check out some websites and blogs... your day will be more rewarding and educational for you and your children.

The Historical Society is proud to bring you this learning experience.

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Member Appreciation *continued*

Renata and Gorton Greene

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Jason Grout

Gail and Guy Grout

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Sue and Tom Raymo

Linda Rix

Mary and Robert Roselle

Ruth and Ken Roth

Mary Roy

Rick Ryan

Peter Saldana & Joan Emerick

Mary and Greg Schieman

continued next page

Member Appreciation *continued*

Linda Schoonover
 Sheila and Steve Schriever
 Barbara Shaw
 Lindsay and Jeff Shook
 Scott Short & Dianne Owen
 Alan Simasko & Cynthia Lane
 Leslie and Tony Skudrna
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 E. Douglas and Susan Stair
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 Norma and Bob Steven
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 Lillian and Neal Stoneback
 Nancy and John Streit
 Ginger Terrien
 Charlene and Richard Thornton
 Shirley Toussaint
 Corinne and John Trexler
 Wendie Trudell
 Susan and Rex Waddell
 Atha Walker
 Judy and Paul Wargo
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 Mary and Art Woodford
 Susan Wright
 Susan and Andrew Wrobel
 Diana and Fred Zaharoff
 Debbie and Larry Zelensky

Special Thanks To . . .

Mac McAdam for his help in lining up speakers for our speakers series. Also, thanks to **Denne & Peggy Osgood** and **Nancy & Bernard Licata** for their help in setting up the Lions Hall for each event.

Nancy Boulton for running the museum, heading up the Calendar Committee and taking charge of the traveling museum store that appears at various island events along with her group of volunteers that help man the museum: **Chris Wludyka, John & Marie Eidt, Donna Krispin, Linda Schoonover, Gary Grout, Karen & Bill Smith.**

Larry Zelensky and **Human Touch Graphics** for the beautiful event posters and other design work that he donates.

Tom Korthals for seeing that the lawn at the museum is kept cut and looking nice.

All our **Building Fund contributors**. You will help us reach our goal of purchasing the Old Fire Hall for our permanent home.

Just some of the folks that help at various events: the **Armstrongs**, the **Roths**, **Linda Schoonover**, the **Osgoods**, **Val Moot**,

John Eidt who oversees our building maintenance.

Michele Komar for writing the newsletter every month. She in turn thanks all the contributors for their articles and photos.

Event and Social Chairs whose dedication and time make these events fun and entertaining:

Lecture Series – **Denne Osgood**

Rum Runners Party – **Ruth Roth**

Memorial Day Open House – **Nancy Boulton**

First Nations Festival – **Sue Wrobel & Bob Williams**

Square Dance – **Peggy Osgood**

Social Hour – **John Chamberlain**

Turkey Shoot Parade – **John Chamberlain**

THANK YOU!

We sincerely apologize if anyone was overlooked. Please let us know if we did and we will be happy to publish your name in the next issue.

Sweetgrass

For Native Americans, sweetgrass is considered the first plant of the earth, is considered the hair of Mother Earth and symbolizes the mind, body and spirit.

Sweetgrass grows wild in the northern regions of North America and Europe. Because most sweetgrass seed is infertile, stands are started from root plugs. Sweetgrass prefers rich, moist, slightly sandy soil and full sun.

There are two types of stems: stout ones, which flower from June to August, and lanky, non-flowering stems. Traditionally, both are harvested for braids by pulling them out of the base sheath: the base of the plant is supported with one hand while pulling the longer blades. This way the roots are undisturbed, which allows the plant to regrow, and leaves the blades at maximum length for braiding.

Sweetgrass is usually gathered in late June or early July in the marshes on Walpole Island. Walpole Island is known for its abundance of sweetgrass (weengushk). Cut stems are laid in the sun to dry in batches no more than an inch thick. Periodically, the stems are turned so they dry

evenly, and when they're almost dry, are braided into 3 strands to represent a balance of mind, body and spirit. The braids add a rich aroma to their surroundings. The braid is burned at one end as a smudge for cleansing the mind, body and spirit. In smudging, you would first burn sage to clear away the bad spirits and then burn the sweetgrass to invite the good ones. ■

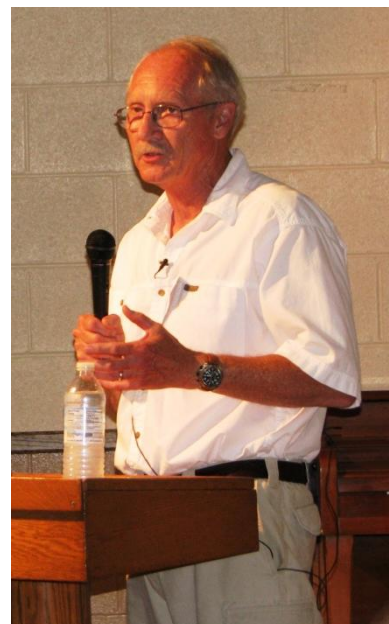
Robert McGreevy Recap 2012 LECTURE SERIES

On July 14, **Robert McGreevy** presented the fate of the *Steamer Key Stone State - November 1861* and, conducted a book signing of his recent publication: *Legends of the Lakes*. If you missed this third event in the 2012 Historical Society Lecture Series....you missed a good one!

Also performing before and after the lecture was the *Ourselves* folk singers from the Bluewater Folk Society who performed sea shantys to everyone's delight.

The event was well attended, has been video recorded, and will be available as a DVD at the Museum Shoppe in the near future along with all of the other lectures The Society has presented.

Peggy and Denny Osgood hosted Bob McGreevy for the weekend and a dinner after the lecture, which was much appreciated.



The fourth and final 2012 program in the Lecture Series will be held October 13 when The Society will sponsor **Joel Stone** of the Detroit Historical Society. Joel will present: **Committed to the Deep: Exploring Underwater Treasures**.

The very first ship on the upper Great Lakes, LaSalle's Griffon, sailed only a single voyage before disappearing beneath the waves. Since then, several thousand other vessels, along with their crews, have met the same fate. Today these underwater treasures offer recreational divers great opportunities for adventure. The wrecks also offer historians, archaeologists and scientists a trove of well-preserved time capsules to be studied and protected. This presentation offers great photographs and underwater video that examine the world of those committed to the deep.

Don't miss the last of the 2012 lectures...we're trying to organize a return engagement of the 'Ourselves' musical entertainment for this event as well.



Chris Wludyka (l) and Nancy Boulton (r) brought the traveling museum store to this event.

From the President *continued*

In other news...

We had a great event July 14 with **Robert McGreevy's** lecture on the *Steamer Key Stone State - November 1861* and the **Ourselves** folk singers, from the Bluewater Folk Society. Check out the article & photos from the event in this issue of the newsletter.

All Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Historical Society Members are *Cordially Invited* and requested to attend the Annual Meeting on August 18 at 5:00 PM followed by an *optional* Spaghetti Dinner. Bring friends and relatives and possibly a new member. Attend the annual meeting; and stay for a social hour and dinner (cash bar) at 6:00 PM and join the festivities. Please phone or e-mail Nancy so we can estimate the number who will attend the meeting and stay for social hour and dinner. Dinner will be \$10.00 Adults and \$5.00 for children under 12.

Your board and executive team cannot function without your input. Any questions or comments should be sent directly to the board at: info@hiscfhs.org.

bernard

ANNUAL MEETING & Spaghetti Dinner



August 18 at Lions Hall

Meeting – 5pm
optional Dinner (cash bar)
at 6pm

\$10 per adult
\$5 per child under 12

Call Nancy Licata for reservations
by Aug. 14
810-748-1825



SQUARE DANCE Fried Chicken Dinner

September 22
Browne's Field • \$20 per person

2012 Activities & Events Calendar

Dates and locations subject to change

Museum Hours

Aug, Sept: Saturday 10 AM – 2 PM and Sunday Noon – 4 PM

For museum information, contact Nancy Boulton at 810-748-3802

Contact us at email@hiscfhs.org

**All events and meetings held at the Old Fire Hall Museum unless noted
3058 S. Channel in downtown Sans Souci.**

**Members are welcome to attend any Board meetings on the calendar to keep apprised of
Society activities and to bring issues before the Board.**

- August**
- 4 Society booth at HISCFA Field Day – Saturday**
 - 8 Social Hour Wednesday – 5 to 7 PM**
 - 11 First Nations Day Festival – downtown Sans Souci – 11am – 4pm**
 - 12 Board Meeting Sunday – 10:00 AM**
 - 18 Annual Meeting followed by Spaghetti Dinner – 5 PM at the Lions Hall**
 - 22 Social Hour Wednesday – 5 to 7 PM**
- September 1, 2, 3 Museum open Saturday, Sunday & Monday – Labor Day Weekend**
- 8 Board Meeting Saturday – 11:30 AM**
 - 12 Social Hour Wednesday – 5 to 7 PM**
 - 22 Square Dance & Fried Chicken Dinner - \$20 per person, Browne's Field**
 - 26 Social Hour Wednesday – 5 to 7 PM**