

# The SOCIETY

# PAGES

HARSENS ISLAND / ST. CLAIR FLATS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Happy  
Thanksgiving



## Welcome Back Mr. President

### ... Bob Williams Returns

What started out to be a planned and scheduled surgery for a 'heart valve' replacement turned into complications of a minor stroke during the procedure that resulted in a twelve- (12) day hospital visit.

The "Society Pages", is pleased to report that 'Bob-is-back', with a new heart valve and 95% recovery as this issue goes to press; and, with expectation of complete recovery over the next ninety- (90) days.

Bob is anxious to be at the Museum and you may see him there on the weekend greeting guests...if his family allows him that latitude.

We are certain that Bob would appreciate 'well wishes'. If you would like to send him a note, please post it to his attention at: PO Box 44, Harsens Island MI 48028 or you may send him an e-mail at: [xharpspah@aol.com](mailto:xharpspah@aol.com).

### Welcome back Bob...!

You and your family have a great deal to be thankful for this Thanksgiving ...take it easy on the turkey..!

## Our American Tradition...

As we gather around the table with family and friends this year, each of us has our personal list of life events and experiences for which we give thanks.

The circumstances that touch our lives are as diverse as there are lives to celebrate.

Take time to celebrate and be thankful for the positive things that have touched your life; and, also be thankful for those negative experiences you have overcome. As my ageing grandfather would say in his broken English: **"It only happens to the living"**. (Think about that statement for a moment.) So no matter the distress or misfortune you have experienced this past year, be thankful that you have survived another day to do good deeds, help your family, friends and neighbors.

Your Society is thankful for you, its members, and for another successful year of bringing educational, cultural and social events to our community.



## DVD Now Available:

### "Island Stories" ...Local History by Local Islanders

Many of you have requested a DVD of the "Island Stories" Lecture featuring: Nancy Streit, John Cameron, Wayne Yax and Dan Persyn.

Own a slice of Island History told in 'First Person', by those who have lived their lives on the Island and the Flats.

The DVD will be available for \$20.00 at the Lecture Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup>, at the Museum or by contacting Chuck Miller at: 810-748-7209

## The Society Pages

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Clair Flats Historical Society

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[www.HISCFS.org](http://www.HISCFS.org)

scan the code to go to the HISCFS  
website

**November 2016**

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Join us on Facebook!

## Message from the President

Dear Members and Friends,

As you may have read on Page One, our President Bob Williams is: ‘temporarily-out-of-service’ due to minor complications during his scheduled recent surgery.

The September lecture on “Island Stories” was video-recorded, as previously reported, and many of you requested copies of the DVD when available. The DVD is now ready for purchase at the Museum or you may contact Chuck Miller at: (810) 748-7209 or via e-mail at: [cmiller5179@gmail.com](mailto:cmiller5179@gmail.com).

The pie sale at the museum Saturday, October 8 was a success, many pies were donated and many pies were sold.

Be sure to mark your calendars for Saturday December 3 to attend the Annual Holiday Cookie Walk Sale at the Museum, starting at 10:00 AM until 3:00 P or until the cookies are gone. This is an event you will not want to miss. The Museum is transformed into a Holiday Cookie Wonderland for a few hours. The cookies do not last long so please get there early and fill your tins with your favorite treats.

The 2017 Harsens Island Visitor’s Map is ‘nearly-sold-out’ of advertising space. If you know of anyone who intends to advertise on the map they should contact Bob Williams as soon as possible at 248-388-0465 or [xharpspah@aol.com](mailto:xharpspah@aol.com). At this point there is very little advertising space available.

Please note the two events sponsored by and presented at the Dossin Museum on Belle Isle; and, Detroit Historical Society:

- If you have not ever attended the “*Lost Mariners Remembrance*”, it is an excellent program presented on November 10 each year, which is the anniversary date of the sinking of the SS Edmund Fitzgerald and loss of its entire crew of 29 seamen. See the article on page 3.
- The Annual “Marine Mart” is another event you may wish to participate in or attend. Details and contact information are described in the Article on page 3.

Warm regards,

Bernardo  
Ghost writing for:

Bob Williams  
President

## Join the Harsens Island Historical Society:

**...Encourage a Friend or Neighbor to Become a Member Today:**

“It’s easy”:

- Go to the following URL:  
<http://stewartfarm.org/hiscfhs/docs/memberapp.pdf>  
at the Historical Society Website
- Print the Membership Application.
- Fill it out; and,
- Mail it to: PO Box 44  
Harsens Island, MI 48028

## ***The Last Lecture of the 2016 Season***

***... Was a Great Success:***

***“Unique Ships of the Great Lakes”*** presented by Joel Stone, Curator of the Detroit Historical Society and the Dossin Museum was well attended and quite informative. Joel’s lecture highlighted ***‘...Practical Ships Designed for Practically Every Need’***.

The massive Freshwater Seas represent a unique nautical environment. One that is unlike anything else in the world. From the beginning of transport on the Great Lakes, sailors and transport companies have learned and adapted their craft to the conditions they encountered.

***Thank you Joel for a great presentation and your continued support.***

## ***Marine Mart...at the Dossin Museum, Belle Isle:***

November 19, 2016 |

9:00am to 2:00pm

Have you been thinking about some Nautical components to decorate your home or cottage here on Harsens Island or The Flats? The best place to shop for original and new items may be found at the Dossin Museum on Belle Isle. Don’t miss this fun shopping experience.

The annual Marine Mart returns to the Dossin Great Lakes Museum! The Mart is a vendor marketplace designed for Great Lakes enthusiasts. It features great holiday shopping and shiploads of nautical items and treasures, including lighthouse prints, nautical stipple ink prints, original and acrylic prints, unique nautical gifts, hand painted Christmas ornaments with Michigan lighthouses, postcards, magazines, china, souvenirs, clocks, marine art, nautical charts, maritime artifacts, boat items, nautical artifacts, nautical photographs, woodworking, lithographs, brochures, acrylic paintings, out-of-print Great Lakes books, ship models and much, much more.

**All tickets are available at the door.** Between 9 and 10 a.m., early birds will pay \$7 for adults (children aged 12 and under are free). After 10 a.m., the Dossin opens to the public and admission to the Marine Mart is free to everyone! For vendor table information, contact Kathy McGraw at [mcgrawka@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mcgrawka@sbcglobal.net) or call 313.806.6458.

## ***Lost Mariners Remembrance...***

***Annual Program at the Dossin Museum, Belle Isle:***

November 10, 2016

6:00pm to 8:00pm

If you’ve never attended this event, you have missed an excellent program. The “2016 Remembrance” event and program are as follows:

Lake Erie’s very own Perfect Storm hit on October 20, 1916. Through the course of the day and night, four commercial vessels were lost to their watery graves, taking more than 50 sailors with them. Join Carrie Sowden, Archaeological Director of the National Museum of the Great Lakes, as we discuss each ship, their history, and what happened as they went down – all across Lake Erie. The stories of the *D.L. Filer*, *James B Colgate*, *Merida*, and *Marshall Butters* are as different as can be. In this year, the 100th anniversary of the storm and losses, we will honor the sailors and their vessels.

A lantern vigil at the *Edmund Fitzgerald* anchor begins the evening, followed by a performance by Lee Murdock, Great Lakes balladeer, and an Honor Guard escort of the memorial wreath to the Detroit River for receipt by the Honor Flotilla of Great Lakes vessels.

**Admission is \$5 for Detroit Historical Society/Dossin members, \$10 for guests, and \$25 for families of up to six.** Seating is limited, and advance registration is required, as this event is expected to sell out. Please call 313.833.1801 or visit [www.detroithistorical.org](http://www.detroithistorical.org) for more information or to register. Tickets are not expected to be available at the door, but the public is welcome to watch the flotilla from the river-bank adjacent to the museum at no charge.

Special thanks to the Canadian Ship-owners Association and the Lake Carriers’ Association for co-sponsoring and to the International Shipmasters’ Association Lodge #7 for their support of this annual program.



PO Box 44  
Harsens Island MI 48028

## Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Historical Society 2016 Calendar of Events

*subject to change*

Members are welcome to attend any Board Meeting listed as Board/Membership Meeting  
(Location may change – See our website at: [HarsensIslandHistory.org](http://HarsensIslandHistory.org) for latest information)

### Museum Hours

**January, February, March, April**– CLOSED – Open by Appointment only

**May** – Saturdays – 10 AM – 3 PM and Sunday's – Noon – 4 PM

**June, July, August, September** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday's - 6 PM – 8 PM

Saturday's – 10 AM – 3 PM and Sunday's – Noon – 4 PM

**Winter Hours**– By Appointment: Phone a Board Member

### November

No Events Scheduled for November

### December

3<sup>rd</sup> - Saturday – 10 – 3 PM – Holiday “Cookie Walk” Sale at Museum

### January

No Events Scheduled for January