

# The SOCIETY

# PAGES

HARSENS ISLAND / ST. CLAIR FLATS HISTORICAL SOCIETY



They came to CELEBRATE



A very happy Board of Directors: Gary Grout, past Chairman and past President, Nancy Licata-Director, Chuck Miller-Director, Kathy O'Connor-Director, Bob Williams-President, Nancy Boulton-First VP, Nancy Bonacquisti-Secretary, Joyce Hassen-Treasurer, Bernardo Licata-COB.  
Not present: Sue Wroble-Second VP

[more celebration pics on page 3](#)

## “Perky Prudence’s Prohibition Phollies” ...

....Perky Prudence Returns June 4:

The Cattails, Woman’s Life Chapter 812, and the fine work of ‘The Gang of Four’ will stage a return of ‘Dinner Theater Melodrama’ **“Perky Prudence’s Prohibition Phollies”** at the Lions Lounge, Saturday June 4 at ‘half past six’ (6:30 PM). The program will run ONE NIGHT ONLY. Last year the cast performed to a ‘sold-out’ crowd. You may purchase \$15 tickets early at the usual places; and, as noted in their poster “...worth every penny! (maybe)”.

Dinner Theater proceeds will benefit the Lions (to support the hall) and The Harsens Island Historical Society. Great Door Prize, Great Fried Chicken Dinner and Great Laughs for all...no extra charge.

## It’s a CELEBRATION...!

by: Bernardo Licata, Editor & COB

Harsens Island MI (May 28, 2016): Five years to the day, after opening the Museum, about 150 people gathered on the morning of Saturday May 28. They came from near and far to **“CELEBRATE OWNERSHIP”**, and a **“PERMANENT”** residence for The Harsens Island St Clair Flats Historical Society **“MUSEUM”**.

In the crowd, there were donors, members of The Society, members of the community, members of the media, friends, neighbors and others to memorialize the retirement of the ‘land contract note’ and ‘celebrate the permanence of the Museum’.

The historic fire hall c. 1938 was rented and a grand opening was held on Memorial Day weekend of 2011. The building was purchased under a land-contract in 2013 and sufficient funds were raised by the end of 2015 to affect a payoff in January of 2016

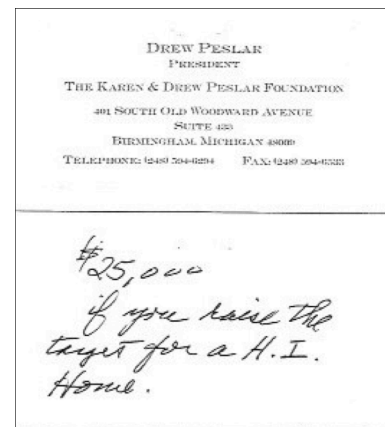
Old adages are reconfirmed...the one that says: “It takes a village”...(i.e. “a community”) is a truism in this case as well. Together, with our community creating a ‘win-win environment’, this task was achieved in two and one half years. There are many, many to thank, so let us begin.

The Society cannot find enough ways to say **THANK YOU** to the key major donor:

**The Karen and Drew Peslar Foundation**, who was the catalyst for this effort back in 2010.

Mr. Peslar wrote a note, as I recall, on the back of his business card and handed it to our first President Gary Grout at the Bluegrass Music Festival held at the Schoolhouse Grille that year. The Society was there to promote its fledgling organization.

The note pledged \$25,000, from their foundation, **“...if you (we) raise the target for a Harsens Island Home”**. (i.e. The \$25K being the last amount needed to purchase a suitable building to create a home for a Museum.)



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# The Society Pages

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Clair Flats Historical Society

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scan the code to go to the HISCFS  
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**June 2016**

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Join us on Facebook!

## Message from the President

Hi All,

Our first lecture of the season went well. We had 32 people in attendance to hear about the history of the Clark ship building family from the Wyandotte area. Thank you to Chuck Miller for putting that event together for us to enjoy.

On Saturday May 28<sup>th</sup> we had a very successful celebration of the final payment of the purchase of our museum building. Thank you again to all who made this accomplishment possible. An indispensable part of operating the museum is the volunteers who are at the museum every weekend to open and close the building and greet visitors. At the building celebration event we recognized some of our members who regularly act as hosts at the museum. On Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am and again at 3:00 pm we will be having short museum host training sessions at the museum. Members who would like to try their hand at being hosts sometime this summer are encouraged to attend one of these sessions to learn the ins and outs of opening the museum and operating all of the great displays we have to offer.

To promote the continued quality of the museum displays, the Board has established an Acquisitions and Collections Committee. This committee will manage the collection and pursue items which they determine could be significant additions to the society's collection of island memorabilia. During the last couple of months, the society, with financial help from member families, has pursued and acquired new artifacts for the collection, a Tashmoo Steamer tureen and ladle and a red glass cup from Tashmoo Park. Be sure to check these out the next time you are at the museum. A good time to visit might be during our monthly social hour on the Second Friday of each summer month from 6 to 8 pm. While there you can enjoy some fresh popcorn from our new popcorn machine, acquired with the co-sponsor support of the Sans Souci Market.

Thank you to the Harsens Island Garden Club and especially Ruth Roth and Nancy Boulton supplying and installing the beautiful flowers in front of our museum. The Garden Club's work in various location of the island is greatly appreciated by all.

Be sure to visit our special exhibit "Freighters, Steamships and Sails, 150 years of change in Great Lakes Shipping." Features of the exhibit include artifacts, photos and narration of the history of technological change in Great Lakes shipping vessels.

- Member Chuck Miller will be building a freighter model at the museum and available to discuss the process on the following dates: Saturday June 11<sup>th</sup>, 1-3 pm; Sunday July 10<sup>th</sup>, 1-3 pm; Saturday August 14<sup>th</sup>, 1-3 pm.
- On Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm member David Addy, Chief Engineer, will speak about a few of the freighters he has worked on during his career.
- There are videos on a variety of freighter topics. "The Salvage of the Sydney Smith" will run all summer. Additional videos on different topics will run each month. May – "Ryerson and Duluth harbor". June – "Working and living on a freighter". July – "Detroit River and a trip Huron to Erie by Freighter". August – "Overview of freighters". September – "Whalebacks and Caught in the Ice".
- One video and a portion of the exhibit is dedicated to the Westcott mail boat and to Arlene Earl, "The Flower Lady" from Harsens Island, who for decades, sent fresh flowers to passing freighters by way of the Westcott.
- Member John Eidt made a hands-on display for you to try your hand at boat knots. Nancy Boulton, our Museum Director has stocked the gift shop with special freighter related items including toy freighters, postcards, and books.

If you collect postcards of local interest or would just like to see other people's collections, we are having a postcard collectors get together at the museum on Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 11 am.

Our friends on the mainland at the Algonac/Clay Township Historical Society are having their annual Log Cabin Day on Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 4 pm at the log cabin next to the Clay Township Hall. If you've never seen it, you really should.

We hope to see you all at the museum sometime this summer, even if it is just to stop by say, "Hi" to the museum hosts.

Cheers,  
Bob Williams, President





2016 Algonac/Clay Historical Society Present Gifts to The Society  
 Bob Williams, President-The Society, Joan Bully and Terry Wallis, President of Algonac/Clay Historical Society

...more Celebration Photos  
 Saturday May 28, 2016



Crowd gathered for Ownership Celebration



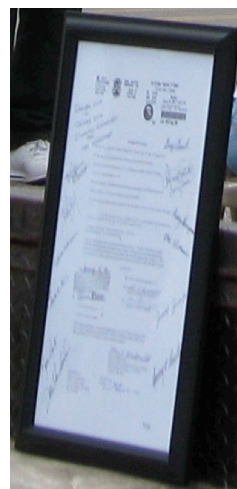
Chuck Miller-Director describing the new 2016 Exhibit "Freighters, Steamers and Sails" 150 Years of History on the Great Lakes  
 with Paul Dingeman Channel 6 TV making Video



Being Interviewed by EBW TV



Gerry Gordinier preparing to present the Framed Warranty Deed to The Society



Framed Warranty Deed for the Museum