



GUNFLINT TIMES

THE GUNFLINT TRAIL
Historical Society

VOLUME XVII

GUNFLINT TRAIL HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2019

WATERCRAFT EXHIBIT BUILDING

Twenty volunteers showed up at North House Folk School in Grand Marais on August 12, 2016. Their goal, to begin the work on the timbers for a new building that would be called the Watercraft Exhibit Building.

The ancient art of timber framing is a traditional style of building with heavy timbers, which has been around for centuries. A timber frame building is a thing of beauty and requires careful craftsmanship and close tolerances. One of the most defining elements of a timber frame is its unique joinery. Heavy timber is joined together via mortises and tenon, much like fine furniture. To hold it all together it is secured with wooden pegs instead of nails or spikes.

Under the instruction of Peter Henrikson and Tom Healy the volunteers enjoyed ten full days, eight hours each day of beautiful weather and camaraderie. The timbers were stored at Hedstrom's Mill from August 2016 until early May of 2018. When the timbers came out of storage each one had to be power washed and delivered up to the site at Chik-Wauk.

Eighteen of the same volunteers showed up on May 19, 2018 for an old-fashioned "raising" of the timbers. The raising took place by hand in the traditional method with A-frames, ropes, and people power. The "raising" was completed on May 22. In July of the same year six volunteers dubbed the Sawdust Seniors started enclosing, siding, and paneling the interior of the structure. After many hours of labor and memorable coffee break discussions, the Sawdust Seniors completed the work on October 25.

The remaining work – railings and entryway will be finished by the time this newsletter hits your mailbox.

The volunteers all enjoyed working together and the sense of accomplishment of a job well done. All the work, besides the roof has been completed by volunteers. The Watercraft Exhibit Building will be open for the 2019 Chik-Wauk season. A grand opening will take place July 7.



Front Row l to r: Craig Knudsen, Jerry Pearo, Jim Sanders, Chris Steele, Jane Lawrence, Tom Healy; Center Row: Mike Carlson, Peter Henrikson, John Bottger; Back Row l to r: Les Edinger, Bruce Kerfoot, Fred Smith, Grant Parcels, Dan Arnold, Jim Edlund, Steve Semmer, Arden Byers, Bill Douglas, Barb Bottger, Dave Tuttle.



*Sitting l to r: Jane Lawrence, Steve Semmer, Craig Knudsen, Dan Arnold, Jim Edlund, Mike Lande, Fred Smith, Keith Wendt, Jim Sanders, Grant Parcels.
Standing l to r: Mike Carlson, Bruce Kerfoot, Jerry Pearo, Les Edinger, Arden Byers, Dave Tuttle, Barb Bottger, Jon Weber, Bill Douglas, Peter Henrikson, John Bottger, Gerald David.*

The Watercraft Exhibit Building will showcase twelve unique and interesting watercraft along with a tower of fourteen antique motors. All of the exhibits have been designed by Split Rock Studios, the same design company that has done the work in the Museum and the Nature Center.

The building will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Volunteers are always welcomed to help with extra shifts.

Admission to Chik-Wauk covers all the exhibit buildings on campus.

Bill Douglas, Vice-President

THE GUNFLINT TRAIL BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

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Trustees Mona Hanson and John Hanson are ending their terms in 2019. Les Edinger stepped into the remaining term of Tersenia Schuett in 2018. We extend our gratitude to these and all the trustees for the time and expertise shared with the GTHS board. In June a slate of trustees will be presented for your vote.

If you are interested in serving on the Board of Trustees in the future, please contact a current board member. This is an active, passionate board; a group of individuals willing to step up and take on challenges.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Phyllis Sherman donated new loon platform

We are emerging into spring from a winter of snow, cold temperatures, wind, and icy rain. A true Minnesota winter! As we grumble along, I am reminded of the first people to inhabit the Gunflint Trail area. What attracted them to such a challenging climate? Familial ties? The lure of financial fortune? The lack of means to leave? So many interesting historical questions to pursue. Perhaps the canoes in the *Watercraft Building* or the furnishings of the *Cabin* will trigger a reflection on the Gunflint Trail's history.

The Board of Trustees acknowledges the importance of programming and presentations in visitor retention. We are sorry to say goodbye to Jacqueline Malinson Martinek and wish her well in her new profession in Australia. As with many things, one door closes and another opens. We are currently planning a program in conjunction with UMD's Center for Environmental Education to include student naturalists. More will be announced as the plan is developed and grant applications submitted.

The GTHS Board of Trustees and dedicated volunteers have been busy. These are a few of the accomplishments in 2018-2019:

- Adopting a revised *Acquisitions and Collections Management Policy* and a *Gift Acceptance Policy*.
- Celebrating volunteers with a listening session. Volunteers are the backbone of Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center. We thank each one of you!
- Prioritizing projects and meeting with USDA Forest Service representatives regarding Chik-Wauk campus projects for the next five years.

- Celebrating the success of Chik-Wauk with Tom Bakk and Rob Ecklund, along with the many partners and volunteers making building projects possible.
- Completing the Watercraft Exhibit Building – exterior work thanks to North House Folk School's Peter Hendrickson and crew, GTHS timber framers and the *Sawdust Seniors*.
- Coordinating interior exhibit content and design work with Split Rock Studios. This formidable task was accomplished by dedicated members of the exhibit committee. The beautiful building and its exhibit opens Memorial Day Weekend.
- Researching, budgeting, and voting to staff and include a gift shop in the Watercraft Exhibit Building.
- Conducting a mini-financial development campaign at year end 2018, via mail and eBlasts. Dollars were raised for numerous Nature Center items, the endowment, memberships, and other donations.
- Hosting the first *Dark Sky Caravan*, drawing over 200 visitors.
- Completing the beautiful "Cabin" which represents memorable vacations for so many Gunflint Trail visitors and residents.
- Creating a new "Gunflint Trail Authors" section in the Museum.
- Creating a new temporary exhibit about Tommy Banks and Billy Needham.
- Replacing the floating loon's nest platform in the bay.

Suzanne Weber, President

A CABIN AT LAST!

The long-awaited construction of a Historic Cabin on the Chik-Wauk grounds began last spring. A beautiful one room log cabin now exists on the shores of Saganaga Lake. Located on the same site that originally was occupied by the Judge's Cabin, the new cabin features panoramic views of the lake in three directions.

Logs for the cabin were supplied by Voyageur Log Homes in Orr, Minnesota and construction performed by Mjølfnir Construction LLC, specifically Jordy Kirk and Tad McDonnell, Cook County's premier log home builder. A few finishing touches will be completed this spring followed by the interior being outfitted with artifacts from the nostalgic era when Chik-Wauk was a functioning resort.

Bob Baker Sr., Cabin Project Manager



Cabin at Last!

GTHS VOLUNTEERS...TANGIBLE IMPACT

Since day one, volunteers have been an invaluable asset to the GTHS. They have played key roles in the historic success story we call Chik-Wauk.

In fact, behind the scenes of any viable non-profit organization stands a crew of noble volunteers. Taken as a group, the efforts of volunteers give support and vitality to whatever the endeavor or project. Loyal volunteers are the backbone!

The GTHS operation at Chik-Wauk has had a bevy of volunteers over the years, from the first days of restoring the old lodge, to current day folks who open and run the Museum/Nature Center facility during staff days off. And, many additional, necessary Campus tasks are served by others. The Board of Trustees is so grateful and cannot thank one and all enough for those who have put on the volunteer cap.

But this is not the end of story. As the Chik-Wauk endeavor has grown to tell more of the Gunflint Trail history, so has the need for more support personnel, in the name of volunteering. The GTHS needs more/new enlistees to step up! Volunteering doesn't have to feel like work. Being a volunteer can mean small commitments of a couple hours or maybe even one five-hour day, often ending up in a joyful



Sawdust Seniors left to right Fred Smith, Mike Lande, & Bruce Kerfoot

gathering with wonderful others of similar interest.

To be honest, many people get hooked on this and have been volunteering for life in a sundry of activities. Once they try it they love it, finding great reward and satisfaction that their effort made a difference.

As in the past, when help was needed, the Gunflint Community has always risen to whatever occasion. With the opening of the Watercraft Exhibit and Interpre-

tive Cabin the call is out for more Gunflint friends and neighbors to answer the bell.

The GTHS & Chik-Wauk needs you! Please find a spot in your heart and schedule to be a part of our volunteer crew. See how much your effort can mean to the historical magic at end of the Trail!

Thanking you in advance, please give Bonnie a call ASAP at 218-388-9915...

Fred Smith, Secretary

THE GUNFLINT TRAIL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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SPECIAL FUNDRAISING EVENTS

The Gunflint Trail Historical Society hosts three fundraisers each summer for members, neighbors, friends, and visitors to enjoy. All the funds raised are used to support the ongoing daily operations, maintenance expenses, and program expenses at Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center.

SUNDAY, JUNE 9, - ANNUAL SHRIMP BOIL

Held at the Seagull Community Center, prepared on site by John Schloot and his crew from 4 to 6 pm.

Added bonus: bake sale by the fabulous bakers along the Gunflint Trail.

SUNDAY, JULY 7 - CHIK-WAUK OPEN HOUSE

Taking place at Chik-Wauk from 11 am to 4 pm

- New Watercraft Exhibit Building
- New Interpretive Cabin
- New Temporary Exhibit in Museum
- Nature Center Exhibits and Trails

SUNDAY, SEPT. 1, - OLD FASHIONED PIE AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center from Noon to 4 pm. A delightful afternoon of delicious homemade pies, ice cream, live music on the porch, gift shop sale. Fun for the whole family!

Judy Edlund, Special Events Chair



Shrimp Boil



FISHING AND THE GUNFLINT TRAIL

Fishing and the Gunflint Trail in northern Minnesota has been a passion of mine since I was seven years old. I still get excited every time I turn off highway 61 in Grand Marais onto the trail and know there is an adventure ahead of me.

As I drove up here yesterday I was thinking it has been over 60 years I have had this privilege of watching nature change, come alive, become reborn and give pleasure to those that allow themselves to take it all in. I have seen windstorms that blew hundreds of acres of trees over like toothpicks. Been witness to with tears, fires that destroyed millions of trees and have had prayers answered as the same forest grew back even fuller than before. I have had a friend who was a fishing guide drown because he was not wearing a life

jacket when his boat went afoul. I have sat in a boat breaking ice while snow is falling around us. And, I have been in that same boat later in the year and baked in over 90 degrees. Contrary to all of this aforementioned, I have also experienced the outdoors as few have. Been so close to a Canadian Lynx I could almost reach out and touch it. I have caught monstrous walleye pike and released them to live out their lives. I have played with eagles. Fed a bear red licorice and have pictures to prove it. Experienced seeing newborn moose stand up and a cinnamon bear (very rare) swim across the lake. And, above all, I found a respite. A place where peace comes naturally and where one has an opportunity to become closer to God.

Article written by Robie Wayne

DO YOU HAVE A HISTORICAL ITEM TO DONATE? BEFORE LOADING THAT ARTIFACT IN YOUR CAR...

Did you know that Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center exhibits are built upon generous gifts of historic items.

As exhibits are planned and organized, artifacts are carefully considered for the contribution each makes to tell a particular story. If a critical item is missing, a search begins within the Gunflint Trail Historical Society (GTHS) database.

If you have an item which has historical significance to the Gunflint Trail (aka "artifact"), the GTHS requests following the steps set forth by Board of Trustees policy.

- Complete an "Artifact Donation Form". A GTHS representative reviews items and decides if the items are in keeping with the GTHS mission. If so, information from the form is entered into the database.
- Retain the artifact in your possession until contacted by the GTHS. Storage space is limited.
- Notify the GTHS if the item becomes unavailable.
- The GTHS may contact you at any time within five years of date of the completed form requesting use of your artifact. "Artifact Donation Forms" renew every five years. Renewal notification is the responsibility of the GTHS.
- Completing the "Artifact Donation Form" indicates an interest between yourself ("Potential Donor") and the GTHS to exhibit your artifact in the Chik-Wauk Museum or other Campus facilities.

While the GTHS appreciates the value in all artifacts, the "Artifact Donation Form" does not indicate a commitment or obligation on behalf of the GTHS to exhibit an artifact. Understandably the topic of each exhibit and exhibit space available determines the number of artifacts which may be accepted.

Thank you for your understanding.

To download the "Artifact Donation Form" go to gunflinttrailhistorical-society.org and click on *Get Involved*.

TEMPORARY EXHIBIT

The Gunflint Trail has forever attracted characters with unique personalities. What is meant by a unique personality? We will leave that up to your description! This year, the temporary exhibit tells the story of a friendship of two individuals who might qualify as characters of the Gunflint Trail.

Tommy Banks (1894-1985), a boot-legger and gangster from Minneapolis, active during the days of prohibition, built a cabin on the historic north shore of Hungry Jack Lake in the mid 1930's.

Billy Needham (1895-1983), lived year-round on the narrow strip of land between Bearskin and Hungry Jack Lake (now called Billy Needham Road). Billy was known for his diamond willow lodge furniture and hand drawn maps. The two men became friends on the shores of Hungry Jack Lake.

The Temporary Exhibit is made possible by the Halversons and the Connells.



Left to right: Billy Needham & Tommy Banks

Halverson's owned the cabin next to Tommy Banks' cabin for many years. Gary and Mary Connell are current owners of the "Tommy Banks" cabin. The two families shared newspaper articles, photographs, and artifacts from the life of Tommy Banks and his cabin caretaker, Bill Needham.

The exhibit at Chik-Wauk displays a pistol owned by Tommy Banks and fur-

niture and household items crafted by Billy Needham, on loan courtesy of the Halversons and Connells. These artifacts along with photographs and narrative tell a story of unusual friendship between Tommy Banks and Billy Needham.

The Connell family has gifted the GTHS with their self-published book about the legend of Tommy Banks. The book is available to browse.

A video presentation by the Connell's grandson, John Hutchinson is featured in the exhibit. John has spent a lot of time at his grandparents' cabin on Hungry Jack Lake and became quite intrigued with the life of Tommy Banks. Take time to enjoy his spirited style of storytelling.

This exhibit promises to leave you wanting more stories about these two men and many more characters of the Gunflint Trail.

Barb Bottger, Past President

LEGENDS OF THE GUNFLINT... PLANNING MATTERS

Memories of days gone by are a part of everyone's journey. The legends of the Gunflint Trail extend from Native American inhabitants and pioneers to present day residents and visitors.

The focus of The Gunflint Trail Historical Society is on preserving history of early inhabitants who endured along this fifty-seven-mile trip through the wilderness; for residents, visiting guests and future generations.

Gunflint stories are about not only pioneers, but you too, the WONDERFUL PEOPLE who continue to make history everyday with each visit, volunteer contribution and provision of financial support. It is therefore inevitable, the legends of this historic place are about all of us, and it has become a saga of love since the opening day on the Chik-Wauk Campus in July of 2010.

Such affection for this "gift" off Moose Pond Road means ALL want its' narrative to extend into perpetuity. Sustaining this magic place at end of the Trail is paramount as the Society looks toward the future with evolving elements planned to tell evermore of the Gunflint story.

Planning for the future is necessary, no matter where one is on life's journey. To sustain our trip to Trails end, The GTHS strategy is to build on an endowment which will allow continued "legend building" through fiscal viability.

Anecdotes of your life and times on the Gunflint is all part of our story, and would surely be enhanced with acumen to consider an endowing benefit to the GTHS in either current financial or estate plans.

Planned gifts can be made anytime to immediately support Chik-Wauk Campus programming growth, or they can take effect in the future as a lasting way to share of your goodwill.

Depending upon the gifting arrangement you choose, YOU can:

1. Feel secure about the future of your loved ones
2. Maintain control of your assets for life
3. Receive tax benefits
4. Give more than you ever thought possible

A few popular planned giving options include:

1. A gift of appreciated stock/securities
2. A gift in your will or revocable trust
3. A gift of retirement plan assets

If YOU are ready to extend a gift to support The Gunflint Trail Historical Society and the legends preserved at Chik-Wauk, by adding a chapter of philanthropy to your journey, talk with your financial planner, and give us a call about continuing this conversation 1-218-388-9915.

Fred Smith, Secretary

FINANCIAL REPORT

The year 2018 ended with the Gunflint Trail Historical Society in solid financial standing. The checking account balance was \$36,109.22, Money Market \$163,691.17, and endowment fund \$165,929.88. The money market fund is used as the "building and exhibit account". Grant money and donations specifically for capital projects are deposited into that account. The checking account is used mainly for general operations and check writing.

End of year fundraising for the endowment raised \$8,050! Thank you, donors! Growing the endowment fund is a great way to assure the financial stability of the GTHS for future years. And, we extend our deepest gratitude to those donating to the capital projects, Nature Center equipment, and the day to day operations of Chik-Wauk.

A special note of gratitude to Bud Darling, serving as GTHS treasurer for the past 9 years!

THE GUNFLINT TRAIL
Historical Society

THANK YOU MEMBERS!

The loyal, ongoing support of Gunflint Trail Historical Society members keeps the Society and Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center strong, vibrant parts of the Gunflint Trail community. Thank you to all members who renewed or joined in the 2018 - 2019 membership year.

Membership information current as of March 31, 2019.

Questions? Contact info@gunflintrailhistoricalsociety.org or call the museum at 218-388-9915.

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Clearwater Lodge
Cook County Visitors Bureau/Gunflint Trail
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PERMIT NO. 1003

REMEMBRANCES

Remember when...remember the time we...remember our good old friend...did you ever meet... Our cultural heritage is made up of our remembrances. The stories of times long ago and the stories of times more recent are treasured pieces of history. When we gather July 8, for the Gunflint Trail Historical Society membership meeting we will remember our neighbors who passed away in the last year as their stories become part of our rich cultural heritage.



Bud Beyer

In May, one tree will be planted on the grounds for each of the following people:

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| Bud Beyer (Gunflint Lake) | John Bouchard (Canadian Saganaga Lake) |
| Mark Patten (Bow Lake) | Maryanne Norton (Hungry Jack Lake) |
| Irene Baumann (Flour Lake) | Rolf Skrien (Gull Lake) |
| Robert W. Nicholson III (Loon Lake) | Marge Estle (Gunflint Lake) |
| Jim Leeds (Round Lake) | Barbara Tibbits (Seagull Lake) |
| Robert Bob Sirois (Seagull Lake) | Terry Brown (Seagull River) |
| Vern Eklund (Seagull Lake) | |

We apologize if we have missed that special friend, neighbor, or relative. If you are aware of others to include, please contact Barbara Bottger at 218-388-0868 or jbottger@boreal.org

REMEMBERING YOUR LOVED ONES

Are you reminiscing about your past friends or family? In the Museum we have a Memorial Book located in our Museum's reading corner. There you will find a page for each person who has been remembered by a special donation in their name. It is meaningful way to have your loved ones remembered.

Barb Bottger, Past President

ONE AUTUMN DAY, A YOUNG FAMILY ENTERED THE CHIK-WAUK NATURE CENTER

Immediately, the two children started inspecting a moose call device.

"What's that?" the little girl asked.

"It's a moose call," answered Chik-Wauk volunteer, Fred.

"A what?!"

"C'mon outside and I'll show you how it works," Fred said.

At the shoreline, Fred demonstrated how to wet the device's string.

"Now hold it high and slowly draw your fingers down the string," Fred instructed. But when the boy did so, the moose call device made a sad croak.

"Okay, this time grab the string tightly with your thumb and finger and pull down slow and steady."

"Araragagh," the device roared, causing all three of them to jump.

"You got it," Fred chuckled. "Do you see any moose coming out around the bay?"

The three peered over the water, looking for the slightest movement and listening for the faint crunch of twigs under hoof on the far shore.

"You know, we might need some binoculars," Fred said. "Why don't you run back to the Nature Center and grab some?"

And off the two ran.