



GUNFLINT TIMES

THE GUNFLINT TRAIL
Historical Society

VOLUME II

GUNFLINT TRAIL HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2008

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It seems like Betty Hemstad and I have swapped seats on the board. So today I write to you as president of the Gunflint Trail Historical Society. The first thing I wish to do is to thank Betty for all the work she did getting us started and moving along the path towards opening the Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center. As with all endeavors, she put in a lot more work getting us this far than most realize.

Now it is time to plan the things that need to get done in the two years before the museum opens. It may seem like there is lots of time but it is going fast. The only way to complete our project is to all work together. Here are some of the things we need to get finished.

First we have to work with Split Rock Studios and other contractors to complete the videos, exhibits, graphic panels and other pieces that will make up the museum. This job is compounded because we don't have a great store of artifacts or a book of the history of the Gunflint Trail. That is where you come in. Many of you know the stories of the Trail. Many of you have pictures, artifacts, and articles about the Gunflint Trail. It is important that you make members of the museum committee aware of your information.

Our second project is to supply physical help with the trail system when needed. Kathy Lande has done an amazing job starting to carve out trails but she needs all of us to pitch in with a few hours of labor. The trail system is an integral part of our museum. It is the woods the trails wind through and the waterways they skirt that first attracted people to this area. We don't want any moaning and groaning because some of this area was burned. Remember that our guests will have an extraordinary opportunity to watch the forest regenerate itself as they walk the trail system.

The next thing we have to do is complete raising the money to pay for the museum and nature trails. This is a project that has grown beyond what anyone ever imagined. The price tag has grown right along with the project. While much of the money is raised, we are not there yet. So please contact Tom Schank or Bruce Kerfoot if you know of a grant or an individual who may be able to help. All of you have been very generous with your financial support. It is important that you continue to support us as much as you are able.

Next on our list comes working with Fred Smith to prepare our building to house the museum. Lots of work has already been done. As with any building, there is ongoing work that still needs to be done. Built in 1933-34, this is an old building and needs some TLC from us. Hundreds of volunteer hours have already been spent on windows, floors, roofing, etc. When the next call goes out for workers, be ready to help.

Our final, and perhaps most important, task is to prepare for that time beyond the opening of the museum. If it opens and just sits there for the next ten years, the project is dead. We need forward looking people who will carry on with new projects and updates to both the trail system and the museum. Staffing the museum will have to be accomplished. Are we at the point where a museum professional is needed? What type of events can we attract to our museum that will keep bringing people in? And, of course, we have to raise the money to pay for these new goals.

All of these projects will take dedicated people. I know that such people are part of the Gunflint community. As you hear of specific needs that you can help with, step forward!

Sue Kerfoot, President

GIVING: IN THE HOME STRETCH

As we near the end of another year, progress continues to be made towards our fund raising goal. We have now raised a total of approximately \$720,000 and need \$200,000 to meet our budget.

Thanks to Bruce Kerfoot's efforts, we have been successful in receiving additional grants and have more requests in process. Of significance, the previous \$180,000 Scenic By-Ways grant has been firmed up and will be administered through Cook County.

We continue to seek individual contributions working through lake associations and by other means. Our "animal" count continues to grow. This season we attracted 1 Black Bear (\$10,000+), 2 Fox (\$1,000+), 18 Loons (\$100+), and 29 Owls (\$1+). Thanks to the work of our intrepid Treasurer, Barb Tuttle, we have the total animal count since the beginning which is: 1 Golden Eagle (\$250,000+) (endowment), 2 Bald Eagles (\$100,000+), 2 Black Bear, 4 Lynx, 21 Fox, 75 Loons and 82 Owls. This year we have received memorials in the names of Yvonne Swanson, Earl Jorgensen, Gail Skrien, Patrick McDonnell, Rose Carlson, Char Kratoska, Dee Peterson, Doris Blomberg, John G. Graham, Marilyn Taus and Olive Rhodes. Gifts were made "In Honor Of" Meredith Holmans, Ron and Betty Hemstad, Phyllis Sherman and Eleanor Matsis. Thank you to all who have contributed!

As we reach year end, please keep GTHS in mind as you consider charitable contributions for 2008. Also, remember that, in your tax planning, common stock can be contributed directly to GTHS for a full value deduction.

Three years ago, when we started the Chik-Wauk project, 2010 seemed a long way off, but it is now coming fast. Please help us complete the goal. It is going to be great! Thank you.

Tom Schank, Finance Chair

CHIK-WAUK LAND, TRAILS AND NATURE NEWS

What's black and brown and bitten all over? A grounds volunteer working on the Chik-Wauk trails in bug season! They are frequently blackened by the burned brush they are moving off the trail and this year's moisture brought mud and a formidable crop of bugs. We have learned that May and September are the best "working" months for this sort of thing.

A swath was cut out for the ADA trail from the driveway around the shore of the bay to the far side where there is an old cabin site with a great view of the lodge building and waters beyond. This was done in May and the lake level promptly rose, putting water up over the early part of the trail for several weeks. Where was this in fiery 2007! I suspect "water over the road" was a recurring event throughout Chik-Wauk's history.

Along this trail there is another rock outcropping that will have a bench or picnic table. While a lot of this area was burned, there are many live tamarack and spruce that survived in the low area and it is encouraging to see many jack pine seedlings already regenerating.

A rocked-up area for the large pots of flowering bushes was created next to the kitchen entrance. We hope the Juneberry, highbush cranberry, chokecherry and other plants will attract birds and butterflies for our visitors. Right next to this we found a home for the iris and rosebush, so the outside of the museum is looking a little more dignified.

Another project tackled this summer was a stairway leading to the top of the rock behind the lodge. This replaced an old stairway built originally to access a cabin on that promontory. It opens up the trail which circles back to the parking area and passes through some great woods that escaped last year's fire. The wonderful pink moccasin flowers are along this trail and were in full bloom early this June.

The other end of the property was the area of activity later in the summer. The old Forest Service gate that was in disrepair was removed and hopefully can be recycled into a working gate elsewhere. Footings for the new gate were dug as well as footings for the entrance sign. The cement truck came along and the sign area is all set for the rock pillars to be constructed and the gate posts are in. Metal brackets for the fence around the electrical transformer and phone pedestal were also cemented into footings, so lots of work was accomplished that day.



We continue to chip away at trail clearing. It is kind of a multilayer process. First there is the initial tree cutting which is mostly blown down or burnt trees. Then the brush has to be moved off the trail. Then you need to go back through again and fine tune the clearing and deal with the surface. Some areas need rocks rearranged or some sort of steps fashioned to get you from one level to the next. The final layer will be incorporating the trails into the interpretive part of the nature center. This will include identifying plants, geology and animal habitat.

A huge, sincere thanks to the many that came and worked so hard and so cheerfully this season. A hopeful plea that you will all come back next summer to continue with the process. There is always room for more help, so do join us if you can.

Kathy Lande, Secretary & Grounds Chair

GUNFLINT TRAIL HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING SCHEDULE

We meet at 1:30 P.M. the last Monday of each month (April - October). The locations of meetings are posted on the web site and sent to the Gunflint Trail Historical Society email list. Everyone is welcome.

June 29 - Annual Meeting

General Membership Meetings:

April 27 May 25

July 27 August 31

September 28 October 26

RESIDENT HISTORICAL INFORMATION

If you are or have been a resident on the Gunflint Trail, PLEASE send in the Personal History Form found at www.GunflintTrailHistoricalSociety.org. We are still collecting your stories.

TO OFFER AN ARTIFACT

Send a description, including photos (if available) to:

Sue Kerfoot

201 South Gunflint

Grand Marais, MN 55604

or email suekerfoot@boreal.org

TO CONTRIBUTE

Send your contribution to:

Barb Tuttle, Treasurer

37 E. Bearskin

Grand Marais, MN 55604

www.GunflintTrailHistoricalSociety.org

for more details.

LOOKING FOR A SPECIAL CANOE

Do you own a birch bark canoe? Would you consider sharing it with others by donating it to the Gunflint Trail Historical Society? It would be studied, appreciated, and admired in a permanent exhibit in our Chik-Wauk Museum. Please contact either Sue at suekerfoot@boreal.org or Betty at Bettyhemstad@aol.com Thank you.

THE GUNFLINT TRAIL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

201 SOUTH GUNFLINT LAKE RD. • GRAND MARAIS, MN 55604

(218) 388-0876

WWW.GUNFLINTTRAILHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG

SUMMER RESTORATION CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES

The light at the end of the tunnel brightened a bit more during the summer of '08 for the coming of our museum in the wilderness. Three major projects were initiated and are now completed as the project closes down for our winter break.

Major tasks included interior electrification, installation of a gas fireplace insert in the west portion of the magnificent stone fireplace and installation of uniform sub-flooring throughout the facility in preparation for carpeting in late '09.

The GTHS was blessed and is grateful for the dedication and fine workmanship of the professionals that did the work. Electrical work was performed by Roger Waage (Hovland) APi Electric, fireplace insert by Glenn Hellner (Grand Marais) Hellner Sales and sub-flooring by Mike Lande (Seagull Lake) Lande Construction.

Although a number of items remain on the list of things to do, the steps taken during the past summer were major in preparing the interior for finishing touches prior to museum displays installation.

Weather and contractor-availability permitting, the final project of trimming out the unfinished upper walls of the

kitchen may yet be added to the completed list for this year as well. If not, this will be #1 on the list for next spring along with many other lesser but nevertheless important jobs.

Volunteers again offered their time and skills in helping to get a number of important auxiliary and supporting chores completed related to this summer's work. The GTHS is both proud of and grateful for the many friends that continue to be active in seeing this dream become a reality.

Fred Smith, Building Chair



New sub-flooring installed and gas fireplace insert, interior of Chik-Wauk Museum

CHIK-WAUK MUSEUM & NATURE CENTER COMMITTEE

The eight-member Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center Committee was organized during August of 2008. We will report to the Gunflint Trail Historical Society's Trustees, but will be responsible for chairing the committees that will execute the final plans for the museum until the grand opening in the summer of 2010.

Five members will be continuing the assignments they began three years ago. They are Kathy Lande, Grounds; Fred Smith, Building; Bruce Kerfoot, Roving Resource; Sue Kerfoot, Historical Content; and Betty Hemstad, Museum Presentation.

We are happy to announce three new members to our team. They are Linda Hendrickson, Temporary Exhibit Chair; Judy Edlund, Special Events Chair; and Melissa Anderson, Museum Gift Shop Chair.

During the winter season some of us will be working closely with Split Rock Studios to design our final game plan for the next year. We've begun making our "to-do" lists and trust that many of you will offer to help where needed next summer. We hope to have our volunteer lists ready by our first GTHS meeting next spring.

Betty Hemstad, Chair



Pink mocassin flowers bloom in early June on trails surrounding the Chik-Wauk Museum

FROM THE TREASURER

As treasurer I try to keep all members informed of our financial stability. All financials are open for public view and if you would like copies please call, email or write. Thanks to your support, our organization is strong and growing and The Gunflint Trail Historical Society is well positioned to continue its work. I would especially like to thank Bob Johnston, CPA, for the help and support he provided. Bob prepares the Gunflint Trail Historical Society's year end reports and is always available for questions.

I truly appreciate your continued and valuable contributions and memberships.

Barb Tuttle, Treasurer

EXTRA! EXTRA! PHOTOS NEEDED



In the video area of the museum we will have a two-sided acoustical room-divider that will have photos of residents who lived here before 1970 on one side and those who lived here after 1970 on the other side. We are looking for pictures of residents engaged in all the various activities that we participate in: putting in the dock, bird watching, washing windows, hiking, baking a pie, wood carving, cleaning the gutters, looking for rocks, photographing a wildflower, canoeing, chopping wood, snoozing, etc., etc.

Please send photos of you and your family "doing what you do" while on the Gunflint Trail. Obviously, we can only work with the photos we receive, so please help us make our museum diversified, with many families represented. Send your "before 1970" photos to Sue Kerfoot, 201 S Gunflint, Grand Marais, MN 55604 and the "after 1970" to Betty Hemstad, 4350 Brookside Ct. #221, Edina, MN 55436. We are hoping to begin working on this project this winter, so please send your photos ASAP. Your help is needed and appreciated.

Betty Hemstad



THE GUNFLINT TRAIL *Historical Society*

201 S. GUNFLINT LAKE
GRAND MARAIS, MN 55604

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

GUNFLINT TRAIL ANCIENT HISTORY

Have you ever wondered where the gunflint rocks in the main lodge fireplace at Gunflint Lodge came from? They are not found anywhere else on the Trail. Paul Weiblen from the University of Minnesota Department of Geology and Geophysics recently sent me an explanation of the rocks. It is an amazing story that is hard to believe.



Gunflint rock fireplace at Gunflint Lodge

About 2 billion years ago, a meteorite 10 miles in diameter hit the earth near what is Sudbury, Ontario. That's about 500 miles east of us. It formed a crater more than 150 miles wide. In the process a large cloud of ash, rock fragments, gases and molten rock (known together as ejecta) rose into the atmosphere and spread around the globe.

Our share of the ejecta got sandwiched in between the Gunflint Iron Formation and the slate of the Rove Foundation. The next step was when some magma (part of the Logan Intrusion) seeped into the rocks. The true ejecta of our layer contains accretionary lapilli. These are small concentric rings that were formed by repeated layers of ash and melted rock droplets.

Another interesting part of this was the speed with which scientists theorize this event reached Gunflint Lake from Sudbury. The fireball would have been here in 13 seconds! It would have been hot enough to ignite trees and cause third degree burns. In another 2-3 minutes earthquakes strong enough to collapse buildings would happen on Gunflint. In another 5-10 minutes the airborne ejecta would have covered Gunflint Lake with a layer 1-3 meters thick. After about 40 additional minutes an air blast with wind speeds up to 1,400 mph would reach Gunflint. In an additional 1-2 hours the area would experience a huge tsunami.

Since I have clearly plagiarized these last three paragraphs from the article, here is a web site that gives more information: <http://www.unb.ca/passc/ImpactDatabase>. The web site describes 174 meteorite impact sites world-wide, including the Sudbury event in North America.

Next time you visit Gunflint, take a closer look at those rocks and think about where they came from.

Sue Kerfoot

A TASTE OF THE GUNFLINT TRAIL: A SUCCESS!

The first annual "A Taste of the Gunflint Trail" was September 13, 2008. Eleven sites participated, including Chik-Wauk. The event is a fundraiser for The Gunflint Trail Historical Society, and a total of \$1,475 was raised. Thanks to all the volunteers who baked, hosted, and made signs for "A Taste of the Gunflint Trail!"

"A Taste of the Gunflint Trail" Cookbook

MEMBERSHIP DUES & NOTES

It is so gratifying to receive your membership dues. It is your way of being a part of our goal and for some who live in other areas, the only way to show your support. The annual dues remain \$15.00 for an individual, \$25.00 for a family, \$50.00 for a business and \$100.00 for a sustaining membership.

Since last November, I have tried to send a letter eleven months after you last paid your dues. I included an envelope for you to send with your check to Barb Tuttle, our treasurer. I hope this reminder is helpful. Please forgive me if I have the date wrong because some send in more than once a year. A few have not renewed but we have quite a few new members so our numbers stay around 400 people. This show of support helps with our efforts to get grants and larger contributions.

Thank you.

Lee Zopff

