



**Crosslake Area
Historical Society
PO Box 134
35404 County Rd 3
Crosslake, MN 56442**

Fall 2022

www.crosslakelovillage.com

218-692-5400

A note from the Historical Society President

Fall is upon us as we ponder our full and eventful summer at the Crosslake Area Historical Society. After a slow down in 2020-2021 because of COVID, we moved forward with an exciting and successful summer of events. We have hosted nearly 3000 visitors at the Historic Log Village this year!

Our board members and committee heads planned and executed many interesting happenings. You will see these described and pictured in this newsletter. The self-guided cell phone tour written by board members and recorded by Milt Bighley will be launched in the spring of 2023. Men, women and children of the Crosslake community participated as speakers in the recordings. We know this cell phone tour will be of added interest to visitors as they tour the Village.

The Log Village website is up and flying. This update has been a huge boost to our interest and presence in the community. We are grateful to Kent Carlson and Joan Callender for their work in engineering this new website. Our Historic Log Village can also be followed on Facebook!

Our fundraiser Cocktail Party has been a great success for the second year and will be on the docket again next year.

Weekends have hosted Spinners from the Lake Country fiber Guild headed by Susan Stark. These ladies spun their wool and answered questions as they worked on the deck of the Town Hall. We are very grateful to them for sharing their time and work. Face painting by Donna Kieffer and a children's painting class by Linda Randall of Kicks on 66 were also offered.

A Crosslake Community Town meeting was held September 16 at the Corps of Engineers Campground. Updates were given on these areas: Water Quality initiatives; Loon Center developments; pedestrian improvements on

Hwy 66/Hwy 3 intersection; school and Highway 66 businesses vitality; Crosslake Community Center and Town Square investments. We participated in this event and gave a report of our activities and plans for the future.

We are hopeful that the plans for the Hwy 66/Hwy 3 intersection will only enhance and promote the visibility and accessibility of our Historic Log Village. We look forward to working closely with the National Loon Center as plans move forward.

Our big thanks to the many volunteers and visitors for a very successful summer of 2022!

Mary Kate Williams

The Crosslake Area Historical Society would like to recognize and thank the following local businesses for their support in our Summer 2022 fundraising campaign

***Anderson Brothers Construction
Zorbaz on Crozslake
Barstock Liquors Larson Group
Build-All Lumber Crosslake Holiday
Zorbaz on Crosslake Tremolo
C & C Boatworks Crosslake Drug
Moonlite Bay Restaurant
North Star Dock & Lift
Wes Hanson Builders
Lands End Development
ACE Hardware Plain & Fancy
Reeds Market
Beyond the Northern Lights
First National Bank
Northland Pet Lodge
Crosslake Veterinary Hospital
Frandsen Bank and Trust Black Pine Beach***



The Crosslake Area Historical Society was a recipient of a \$5000.00 donation from the Crosslake Ideal Lions club. These funds were used to help defray the costs of a new roof for the General Store. We are very appreciative of this generous gift! Thank You!!

Pictured L-R: Historical Society president, Kate Williams, Donna Leagjeld and Jeremy Knippel representing the Lions with Dodo Fraser, charter member of the Historical Society and Tom White, board member and grounds/maintenance chairman of the Historical Society.

The **Season Opener** that was held on Tuesday, June 7th, was a new event this year. It was designed to invite the community to visit the Historic Log Village on a Spring weekday evening. We featured a showcase of volunteer opportunities with the hopes that volunteers would come forward to help us this season. Kale Jones from Emily shared his music. Food was available on the grounds at Dawn Maucieri's food truck. Donated door prizes were awarded to the winners. It turned out to be a very successful evening.



Deb Peterson at the door prize table



Kale Jones

These six strong young men from Pequot Lakes High School gave of their time and energy to clean up all the dead limbs, brush and debris in our Village during the **Day of Caring**. They were guided and supervised by our ground maintenance chairman, Tom White. Thanks Guys!!



Pequot Lakes High School workers

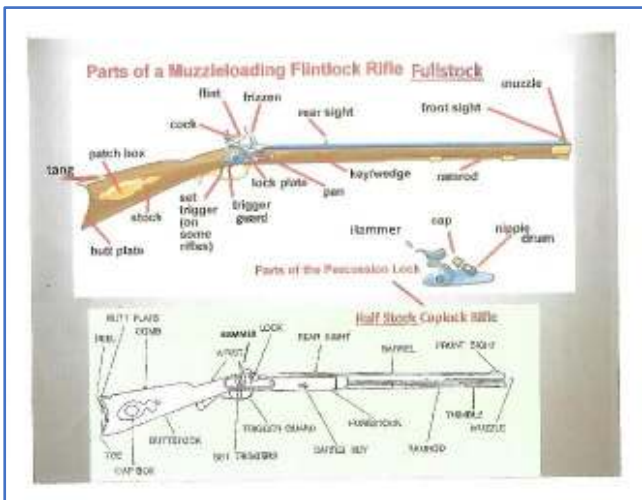
BACK PORCH SERIES PROGRAMS

Our first program on June 15 featured Joe Ruttger who co-owns the Whitefish Chain Mailboat with Ron Schultz. His talk included lots of historical facts pertaining to Ben Knebel's summer mail deliveries throughout the Upper Whitefish and Trout Lakes. He explained the process of identifying and verifying that this boat is the authentic mailboat that was piloted in the 40s – 60s delivering mail to docks on the lakes. Joe, as a child had frequent contacts with Ben and the now famous mailboat. We thank Joe and Ron for the privilege of keeping the boat in our Livery for the enjoyment of many who visit our Historic Log Village.



We found out that Alan Bohme is very well known in the area when the crowd grew to overflowing at his June 29 program. He is a frequent instructor at local high schools where he speaks to students on area gangster history. He presented his program to a standing room only crowd in the Livery. Although we set up 100 chairs, it wasn't enough to seat the over 200 people who showed up to hear more about Gangsters. His talk included stories about Gangsters like Babyface Nelson, John Dillinger and the Barker gang who brought their lawless ways to our state of Minnesota.

On July 27, Ron Manger, who has studied and researched history of our local area, brought stories about notorious gangsters who made their mark right here in our Crosslake and Fifty Lakes area. He told about gangster Verne Miller, who carried out his crime in Crow Wing County. He showed many photos pertaining to Charles Ross's kidnapping by Crosby native, John Henry Seadlund in 1937. He also added a story about a woman whose body was found in Bass Lake in the 40's. Her husband, who was familiar with the area, and had relatives here was convicted of her murder in the Twin Cities.



Attendees on August 10th got an education about the parts of a Muzzleloader Flintlock Rifle and story about a rifle stock relic that was found on the shoreline of Lower Hay Lake in the 1960s. Ray Nelson found the artifact in the Crow Wing County Museum and set about to find the story of who might have owned the rifle and why it was left there on the shore. He said after 35 years of research, it appears to be the oldest rifle artifact found thus far in Minnesota. "Having a curious unknown history has kept me looking for it and the process keeps revealing more stories from its day and age." Nelson determined the rifle has attributes from the Odenwald region of Germany. Immigrants from Germany and Denmark came to America in the early 1700s to become traders.



Pete and Ike, the Morsch Brothers, also known as **Tamarack** performed on the porch of the Town Hall and entertained a very enthusiastic crowd. The audience was amused and charmed by the children who danced to the music played by their Dads on stage!



Olde Time Photos

These two families took advantage of the pioneer costumes provided for groups to wear for taking pictures in our Historic Log Village. We appreciate their sharing their photos with us! Bring your family next year, pretend you're pioneers, wear the costumes and use the Historic Log Village as your background. Then share the photos in your Christmas cards!



Ruby Guida Love, Grand niece of Ben Knebel, pilot of the Whitefish Chain mailboat, visited the Historic Log Village to see her uncle's restored boat!

Donna Kieffer gave of her time one day to paint faces of very receptive children!

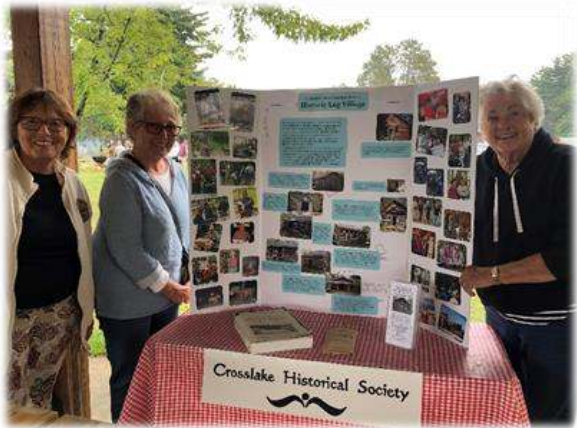




The spinners set up on the deck of the Town Hall several Saturdays and Sundays this summer. They were very willing to spend their time teaching and demonstrating their special skills. We even found out that a sheep, named Violet, provides just the right fleece Susan Stark uses to spin her special yarn! Susan was joined by Ann Lanz, Liz Holt, Marianne Torntore, LeAnn Werner, Jackie Brower and Linda Ward who generously shared their talents and skills with the weekend visitors at the Historic Log Village!



Linda Randall of "Kicks, the Art Place" offered a Saturday art class for children. She provided all the art materials they needed to complete a small canvas painting.



Organizations and people with connections to Crosslake were invited to attend a Town Hall Meeting at the Corps of Engineers Campground on Friday, September 16 hosted by the "Crosslakers." It was an informational and interactive meeting with representatives from the MN

Design Team. Updates on past city projects and details regarding new projects including sidewalks and major intersection improvements coming in 2023 and 2024 were shared with participants. Pictured is our display at the event. It was an evening of showcasing all the groups active in Crosslake. Our president, Kate Williams gave a short talk telling what the Historical Society is all about.

The photo gallery shown on these pages is only a snapshot of the many activities that took place at the Historic Log Village this summer. We welcome more persons who can share their special talents with our village guests. Maybe you can demonstrate a craft that is entertaining, instructional or that has that special historical significance. Our guests appreciate the opportunity to add something educational to their visit. Please contact us if you would be willing to offer your unique skill or ability to our weekend schedule OR if you can volunteer to help on weekends. Call Priscilla at 218-839-0502 or Linda at 513-807-0392

Cocktail Party

Bob and Sue Ruff hosted a Cocktail Party at their home on beautiful Rush Lake on June 24. The party brought in funds to support and promote the Historic Log Village. Scrumptious, yummy, delightful hors d'oeuvres and beverages were prepared and served to the guests by volunteers. Bob and Sue opened their unique historic reproduction home to over 100 invitees. Music was provided by young Kale Jones from Emily. Profits from this event are dedicated to the operations, programs and maintenance of our Historic Log Village. We can't begin to thank everyone who

contributed to the success of this event. We're eagerly looking forward for next year's affair!



Volunteer Luncheon

Nancy Thayer Haggerty hosted a Volunteer Appreciation luncheon at her home to recognize and thank our volunteers and to encourage others to join the group. Volunteers are the backbone of our

Historical Society. Our Historic Log Village is sustained entirely by volunteers. Everything we do is completed by volunteers. Please consider becoming one of these dedicated people. We NEED you!



Raffle Winner

Pictured to the right is our President, Mary Kate Williams with Matt Ackerman, the winner of our summer raffle of a framed 1936 map of the Crosslake Area. The map was originally printed by the Historical Society in 1977 and is offered for sale in our Visitor's Center gift shop. But this one – was matted and professionally framed by Kristi and Joe at Lakes Area Gallery and Frame Shoppe and was generously donated to the Historical Society. To make the best of the donation, a raffle was held that netted profit for our society!



Cider and Candlelight Tour

It was a grand conclusion for the annual Crosslake Days. According to Deb Peterson who wielded the clicker, 328 guests entered the Historic Log Village for the event! And that doesn't even include all the volunteers who guided the guests, provided traffic and parking control, assisted with the wagon rides, served beverages and goodies and staffed the buildings to answer questions of the visitors. There may have been over 400 people visit the Village that evening!! Kale Jones provided music. The wagon loaded with eager passengers was pulled by Erv "Winkie" Rassat with his Farmall tractor!



An exciting comeback story points to a bright future for the Crosslake Area Historical Society

By Bob Ruff

The COVID pandemic was not kind to the Historical Society. 'Stay at home' warnings from public health care officials at times forced the closing of the society's Log Village. Following two years of COVID restrictions, the Historical Society found itself facing a series of difficult challenges. With the lack of fundraising opportunities, cash reserves had declined, tightening the operational budget and forcing the delay of a number of needed maintenance projects for the Historic Log Village buildings.

But as COVID restrictions lifted, some exciting things started happening, beginning with two successful fundraising years. With coffers rebuilt to record highs, a leaky building was replaced with a new roof.

During the same period a newly modernized website was launched, creating new marketing tools and a new social media presence. The board of directors added a new group of talented board members to their leadership team. Fresh ideas, new visions, and an exciting sense of renewed energy resulted.

During this past summer, The Historical Society saw particular success in their "Back Porch Programs"- a series of history related educational seminars offered to their membership as well as the public at large. Stronger than expected attendance numbers and praising reviews committed the board to further

focus on these types of events in the future. Following nearly a year of script writing and voice recordings, a self-touring cell phone project was

completed and will be rolled out to visitors this upcoming spring. The Historical Society also recently announced that an acquisition of a historic Native American teepee was completed. The newest addition to the Log Village grounds will be on display next spring. Native American history will be among the anticipated roster of topics for our 2023 educational series.

The Historical Society's short-term goals include continuing to update our technological capabilities, a continued focus on our educational programs, and increasing our volunteer roster. Long-term goals are many, including the addition of an event center along with adding sewer and water facilities to the Visitors Center to accommodate our growing number of visitors.

The Historical Society believes in the importance of their mission to preserve and educate Crosslake's compelling history and heritage. A commitment to offering a unique cultural aspect to their city's residents and visitors alike has never been stronger. We also foresee being in a unique position to benefit from the opening of the National Loon Center and look forward to the forming of a strategic partnership with our new neighbor.

In the end, The Crosslake Historical Society is proud of its comeback story and has never had a brighter outlook for its future.



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 Historic Log Village
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FALL 2022

Memberships support the Historical Society. Please become a member or renew your membership. Crosslake Area Historical Society is a 501C-3 non-profit organization and your contribution is tax deductible.

Membership options:

Individual/Family Annual \$25.00
 Business Annual \$100.00

We are no longer offering *new* Lifetime memberships. Current life members will continue to be honored.

Send your membership check to:
 CLAHS Membership
 PO Box 134
 Crosslake, MN 56442

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