



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

**Crosslakelogvillage.com
Editor: Mary Dischinger**

A note from our board president:

October 7, 2025

We turn the page on another successful season of the Crosslake Log Village. Once again, we have had the privilege of sharing a piece of Crosslake History with our community members and visitors to the area. Our ten buildings, replicas of earlier years of Crosslake continue to attract and please our many weekend visitors. The Village is open 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM Saturdays and Sundays – Memorial Day through Labor Day. We are pleased to know that the Log Village continued to be of interest to our several thousand visitors again this summer. Our buildings are open and available to walk through, enabling our visitors to feel and experience life here in earlier years of Crosslake.

Our major annual fund raiser party was held at the lovely and spacious home of the Neumann's on Cross Lake. This annual fund raiser provides generous support and interest which allows the Village to continue with maintenance and offering weekly

**Phone: 218-692-5400
Fall 2025**

programs of interest for children and families.

The Log Village is staffed by a volunteer board with the help and interest of many folks in the Crosslake community. We are grateful to these “helpers” who volunteer in many ways to keep us “alive, well and vibrant!” The Village is open weekends and for special groups on other times by request and appointment.

Special events are held during the summer months. The Back Porch series on Thursday evenings have been of great interest and the Saturday programs for children and adults have also been well attended. We welcome new ideas and presentations. Give us a shout if you would be interested in sharing your time and talent.

Our board meets monthly throughout the year, making decisions, planning for events and maintenance of buildings and property.

Mary “Kate” Williams, president.

Please stay informed by visiting our website: Crosslakelogvillage.com. Our committees will provide ongoing updates to keep you apprised of all activities. We encourage regular visits for information regarding our 2026 season programs and events. The self-guided tour can be accessed from your home or elsewhere, offering detailed narratives and historical context for each building featured.

Special Tours

The 2025 season has ended, but so many things happened this year! We had several private tours with families, school students and interested folk. We began our season hosting the Cuyuna Lakes Academy of home school students on May 9th. Then we welcomed a group of 51 students from the Crosslake Charter School. Find those stories in the Spring/Summer 2025 newsletter on the website: crosslakelogvillage.com.



On August 6, Volunteers welcomed participants from Blue Sky Support Services in Brainerd. Despite varying disabilities, including non-verbal members, their enthusiasm positively impacted our volunteers who were pleased to host this group!



When the school year began again in September, we had a visit from the Oak Street Christian School. It's a small private school and this group enjoyed a special project arranged for them in the school. Each student made a drawing following instructions from teacher, Marsha Schoeb. It was a very cold day, but that didn't deter the fun!

Another tour was requested by a family that was coming up for their annual "Sister Day" with Mom, sisters, nieces and daughter. Mom, who is 88 years old, requested an educational component to their day. The visit to the Historic Log Village fit the bill!



BAM! The Bicycling Around Minnesota event brought approximately 200 cyclists for a tour that included The Historic Log Village. Participants from Minnesota plus other states traveled through the Northwoods by bicycle for three days biking from Pequot Lakes to Aitkin and back. On August 22, 125 bike riders stopped at the Village for a scheduled rest break and toured the site. For most, this was their first visit to the lakes area. The Volunteers received many positive comments; the riders were very impressed with our log village. Some attendees indicated they would return with their families.



The historical society received a very special request from a mother of two autistic boys who wished to visit the Village on a day when there wouldn't be crowds because of her concern for her boys. It was arranged to meet them August 27. They especially liked the Tipi as all our young visitors do!





Trees keep giving!

Board member Mike O'Connell proposed giving special thank you gifts to key supporters of the Historical Society. He partnered with Zachary Clark, a certified arborist and founder of Environmental Advantage, to provide free trees through their stewardship program. Thirteen Northern Red Oak trees were delivered to the Village for these individuals. Environmental Advantage specializes in tree pruning, tree removal and tree health care. Thank you, Zachary, for connecting with us on this project.



Special thanks go to Ginny Hersey for her efforts in securing program presenters for the summer Saturdays. She scheduled something educational and interesting each week. These programs encouraged participation

from more people who visit the village to learn! Corn husk dolls were made with Marsha on July 12. Kids enjoyed rock painting on July 19th. On July 26th, Tim Kulseth demonstrated blacksmithing on our forge in our blacksmith shop while his wife, Eileen put on a pottery workshop. This represents just a few of the wonderful programs that were held during the summer! Watch the website for next year's schedule!



Back Porch Programs.

Bob Ruff and Priscilla Balmer dedicated the winter season to developing Thursday evening programs designed to engage our guests. We were honored to host several distinguished speakers who both entertained and educated attendees. On August 7th, Dr Lisa VanGetson returned to present further insights into Native American history, specifically addressing the significance of drums and drumming. Ron Manger's presentation on August 29th attracted a record attendance, offering a comprehensive overview of the Old Grade's history. He illustrated his talk with maps and historical

photographs from the railroad's logging era. Other programs included an informative session by the Minnesota DNR, a

performance by the Morsch Family Band, and a detailed exploration of the resort industry's history led by Mike Schwieters. Additionally, guests gained a deeper understanding of the acquisition of the Whitefish Chain mailboat, which is on exhibit in the Livery Building.



Historic Log Village Gift Store Gets an Upgrade

Over the years, the Crosslake Log Village Visitor's Center has been the first stop for people wanting to step back in time and understand what life was like 100 years ago. People could pick up a map and information on the buildings and artifacts, or they could take a guided tour.

Today, people scan a QR code to download a narrated tour, and the Visitor's Center has evolved into not only a place for information, but a place to take your group's "old time photo", and a gift shop filled with unique items. The transition to a robust gift shop began several years ago, when a small group of volunteers recognized an opportunity to make the store more inviting and upgrade the items sold.

Sticking with the mission of the Crosslake Area Historical Society to provide a peek at the lives of Crosslake's pioneers, the volunteers brought in Minnesota-themed books that support the educational mission of the Log Village. Minnesota-themed cookbooks, local honey, rich maple syrup, pancake mixes, cocktail napkins, and handmade kitchen towels can be purchased. Vintage games have always been a hit with kids and adults! Puzzles and games were added, including the popular "Whose Butt Is It" matching game created by award-winning wildlife naturalist and photographer Stan Tekiela.

Also popular are sweatshirts, tee shirts, and baseball caps sporting the Crosslake Log Village logo.

The result? The Gift Shop at the Visitor's Center became a great spot to shop for souvenirs and gifts, with more visitors stopping by than ever before. The Crosslake Historic Log Village utilizes the dollars generated from donations and the Gift Store to restore, maintain, and preserve its buildings and the site.

The Gift Store is open weekends from Memorial Day to Labor Day and will open in 2026 with new inventory!

Our "A Taste of History" book was originally written and published by the Historical Society in 2004. The book is a compilation of photos and stories written by those who experienced life in the early years. It is perfect for anyone interested in Crosslake history. Note - The book was reprinted in 2024 and this time page numbers and an index are included! You can purchase a copy for yourself during the off season at Crosslake Chamber of Commerce office, Crosslake Coffee, Crosslake Drug, Holly's Hair and Nails and Plain & Fancy. You can order them through the website: <https://crosslakelogvillage.com/a-taste-of-history/>



Fifty Years Anniversary Celebration



On August 2, we celebrated the founding and the incorporation of the Crosslake Area Historical Society with an outdoor picnic. We honored Dodo Fraser and Les Boozell, the last original signers of the ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION from November 1975. President Kate Williams introduced both and they spoke to attendees.



In 1974, local residents began to meet at various locations in Crosslake to discuss an idea to form a historical society. The handful of locals thought Crosslake's history was worth preserving! Crosslake began at the turn of the century when local industry transitioned from logging to tourism. In November of this year, the society will turn fifty years old and is as robust as ever!! We owe a debt of gratitude to those original individuals: Lester Boozell, Mary Boozell, Arline Brunes, Blanche Chenevert, Margaret Kunze, Nathalie Swann, Vernon Davis, Doris Fraser and Cora Erickson.



Author Darrell Pedersen set up a display of his work at the Visitor's Center. His books are sold in the gift shop. Volunteers staffed all the buildings. Ginny Hersey hosted vintage games near the schoolhouse.

Board member Bob Ruff had a chance to visit with founders Dodo Fraser and Les Boozell.



Marsha Schoeb gave a paper quilt class in the Town Hall.



A free lunch of hot dogs, chips and cake was served by volunteers to 250 attendees under festive tents.



Updates on maintenance of the Historic Log Village



The Historic Log Village requires continual maintenance to ensure the preservation of its artifact buildings. In August, the Town Hall was equipped with a new roof, and the shingles on the Livery awning were replaced.

The board of directors also agreed to paint the Livery red! It seems fitting that in 1900, a livery might have been red! This adds some much-needed color to the Village.



The Historical Society appreciates and thanks the many members and financial supporters of our organization. Your contributions make the preservation of our Historic Log Village possible.



Cider and Candlelight Tour

The annual Cider and Candlelight Tour during the 2025 Crosslake Days took place on Saturday, September 27. Wagon rides were offered into the Crosslake Campground with approval from the Corps of Engineers, with Jeff Laurel and his tractor pulling the wagon. Cookies, cider, and historic displays, including a new Native American exhibit, were available in the Livery. The Saloon provided peanuts, candy corn, and root beer. Bruce Archer played music on the Town Hall deck. The Historic Log Village was lit

Did you know that donors of the age of 70.5 can reduce their income tax by rolling over their minimum IRA distributions, tax free, to a charitable organization? See your tax advisors for further details.



with lanterns and each of the historic buildings were staffed by costumed volunteers. The weather was mild, and attendance included both Crosslake residents and visitors, totaling over 400 participants for the weekend event that marked the end of the Crosslake Log Village season.



A Night to Remember on Cross Lake's Western Shore

– by Chairman Bob Ruff

Stephanie and Jesse Neumann's lake home had been the talk of the town ever since it was built on the western shore of Cross Lake in 2023. When the search began for a venue to host the annual 2025 fundraiser, the prospect of Neumann's offering up their newly built and magnificent craftsman style home for the event was considered a long shot, to say the least. But when the 40's something, successful professionals arranged to meet, they practically agreed to the idea on the spot. It was later learned that Jessie had a flourishing interest in the local Crosslake history, an admirer of the Log Village, and a student of the Historical Society's very own Taste of History book, which in part explained how willingly the couple had agreed to host the event.



With the event less than a week away, the weather forecast looked promising right up until the very night before the party, when it abruptly changed over to heavy rain. Worried over the sudden weather threat, phone calls and texts bounced back and forth between organizers all evening. With so little time, the notion of renting tents was ruled out, leaving no other option but to hope and pray. The picturesque, westward facing grounds and pool could not have been a more ideal setting for a lakeside party in the middle of Minnesota's north woods. Even as fantastic as Neumann's home was, everyone dreaded the thought that the record-setting number of registered guests would be forced inside on a summer evening in June.

The first big wave of party arrivals were met by volunteers in orange safety vests and flagged off County #66 and into City Hall parking lot, utilizing a special permit that had been obtained from city officials prior in the week. From that point, guests stepped into golf carts operated by Neumann's two daughters and their team of friends and driven back across #66 and down Neumann's driveway and dropped off near the registration area. Once the city lot was filled, party goers were later directed to park along both of the north and south side shoulders of County Road #66. A few of the more adventurous party goers even arrived by water, several in classic wood boats, drawing admiration from the on looking guests.

Music was in the air as the party kicked off, with local favorite Bud Roberts and his guitar on hand, performing from a quieter area off the far side of the pool. With drinks in the hands of many of the guests, caterers carrying trays of appetizers began weaving their way through the crowd of smartly dressed donors. Each new wave of party arrivals brought the party an additional surge of fun energy, a signature hallmark to all the previously held Cocktail party events.

The concept of the Cocktail Party fundraiser had been originally conceived and hosted by local supporter Nancy Thayer Haggerty and her husband Larry. From its humble beginnings, the fundraiser grew each of the four years that followed, to the point of being considered among some circles as one of the top social events of the summer.

Back at the scene of the party, guests had formed lines along both sides of a long table inside the Neumann's sizable lakeside screened porch and were busy choosing what to eat from a delicious looking variety of small plate options. At the far opposite side of the porch, excitement surrounded another table as guests moaned over an array of desserts and coffee options. With no sign of the party quieting down after people had finished eating, an "on-the-fly" decision was made to forego the customary public address portion of the evening and let the party roll on until the very end, which by the way, thankfully ended without a drop of rain falling,

In the end, the 2025 Cocktail Party was not only record setting in terms of attendance and revenues, but truly a fun celebration, all in the name of Crosslake's Historical Society, the Log Village that it has been charged with conserving, and the mission in which they serve by gathering, preserving and educating the area's past history that has come before them.



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Memberships support the Historical Society. Please become a member or renew your membership. The Historical Society is a 501(C) (3) non-profit organization.

Membership options are set for your own discretion based on your desire to contribute. No other distinctions apply to each level.

Trapper	\$35.00
Homesteader	\$50.00
Logger	\$100.00
Dam Keeper	over \$100.00

Send your membership check to:
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