Karl Hele’s Talk
On Friday, November 7, at 7 p.m., the CCHS will host a talk by Dr. Karl S. Hele on “Charlotte Johnston McMurray and Missions to Bawating, 1827–1838.” The topic was the focus of his doctoral dissertation. Karl Hele grew up in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, and is a member of the Garden River First Nation community. He was involved in this past summer’s “The Song of Hiawatha” presentation at the Garden River community. He is an assistant professor of First Nations Studies and Anthropology, and the director of the First Nations Studies Program at the University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario.

Karl Hele is the editor of the new book of essays, Lines Drawn upon the Water: First Nations and the Great Lakes Borders and Borderlands, published by Wilfred Laurier University Press in Waterloo, Ontario. The essays examine the impact of the Canadian-American border on communities, with reference to national efforts to enforce the boundary and the determination of local groups to pursue their interests and define themselves. Copies of the book will be available for purchase. Dr. Hele has presented and published several papers concerning the history of the Anishinabeg and Métis communities in the Sault Ste. Marie region and their relationship to colonialism. His talk will take place at the front of the society’s building at 115 Ashmun Street. You may park out front or in the parking lot at the back and walk through to the front of the building. The public is welcome to this free program. Refreshments will be provided and the gift shop will be open.

Dee Stevens’ Library Booksigning
The Friends of Bayliss Library will be holding a nearly new used book sale on Saturday, December 13, at Bayliss Public Library. Local author and historian Dee Stevens will have her new book, Sault Ste. Marie available for purchase and signing from 1-3 p.m. Dee selected photos from the collections of CCHS and Bayliss Public Library for the book and wrote the text. The CCHS traveling display, featuring photos from her book, will be available to view. Dee, Beanie Arbic, and Mary M. June prepared the display.

Dee Stevens’ book is also available in the CCHS Gift Shop for $17.95 through the CCHS Gift Shop.

MCACA Grant
Thanks to a grant from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA), we were able to film tours of the Johnston and Kemp museums narrated by Arline Fitzmaurice and Sharon MacAiren, respectively, and videotaped by Jane Dufield of Picture This (Video) Productions. The programmers at the Johnston House were also videotaped during live performances. DVDs of the tours and programming were created and will be available for viewing over the winter and next summer at the homes. As part of the grant, children’s activity sheets were produced for visitors to the Kemp Museum and Johnston House by Carolyn Askwith and Patty Ohn. The grant also included purchasing equipment to view the DVDs as well as the creation of a cabinet by Arline Fitzmaurice and a 1000-footer Columbia Star. The public is welcome and refreshments will be provided. Lake Effect will be available for sale that evening and is also available for $17.95 through the CCHS Gift Shop.

The Open House held on August 24 to showcase the new enhancements to the Water Street Historic Block was attended by over 50 people. Peter DeCouney and Arline Fitzmaurice, in their roles as John and Susan Johnston, were on hand to greet visitors at the Johnston House, and Susan Askwith and Dave Stanaway performed an outdoor concert for guests on the porch of the Schoolcraft House.

(continued on next page)
Water Street Historic Block Update
If you haven’t been down on Water Street lately, you may want to drive by to see the changes taking place there. All four homes had exterior improvements made this summer. The Schoolcraft and Baraga Houses have new cedar shake roofs. Both of these projects received funding not only from the City General Fund but also through the Chase S. Osborn Historic Trust. The Kemp Industrial Museum has a new back porch, as does the Baraga House, and the Schoolcraft and Baraga Houses also had curts installed. The Sault Garden Club created an attractive perennial arrangement at the front of the Kemp Museum, and continued to care for the Johnstone House gardens. To enhance the beauty of the gardens, a privacy fence was constructed along the west side of the property.

Sharon MacLaren spearheaded work on the Baraga House. The house was purchased with new exterior paint, some reconstruction to undo previous changes to the building’s exterior, repair of a third floor window, and a new barrier-free back door. Besides the exterior work, the interior had a thorough cleaning. Much of the scraping, painting, and interior work was done by Youth Works volunteers, the county jail crew, and local community members. The City contracted with Ware Contracting to do the Schoolcraft and Baraga roofs, the reconstruction project, and the back porch projects. Everyone involved deserves a “thank you” for all their help.

Programming at the Johnstone House took place during July and August, with Susan Askwith and Dave Stanaway performing Tuesday and Thursdays, and Peter DeCourcy, as John Johnston, and Arline Fitzmaurice, as Susan Johnston, hosting visitors Monday through Friday. Area craftpeople were on hand Saturday and Sunday to help plan the visit to the homes next summer during July and August to catch these talented individuals bringing history to life.

Canal District Study
For anyone interested in finding out more about some of the historic buildings within Sault Ste. Marie, a good place to start is with the Canal District Study, recently published by the City’s Planning and Development Department. The study is available at the Bayliss Public Library, the Shoulder Library at Lake Superior State University, the City Clerk’s office, and (by appointment) at our office. The study covers all buildings on the east side of the “island” section of the city, the area encompassed by Johnston and Bingham Streets on the east and west, and by Water and Lyons Streets on the north and south. Under guidance from the City’s Planning and Development Department, work was completed by Patrick Morgan.

Honoring Reception
In July the Board approved a reception to honor Sharon MacLaren, Bernard Arbic, and Dr. Thomas G. Robinson (all Sault High Class of 1958) for their many contributions to the preservation of history in Chippewa County. About 100 people attended, making it a very successful event and fundraiser. Our thanks to all of the volunteers (named later in this newsletter) who provided food and drinks, and assistance with planning, set-up, serving, and clean-up. Special thanks to Mayor Tony Rice for providing presentations from the city, Matt Zook for providing musical entertainment, Cup of the Day for coffee and bars, Penny’s Kitchen for chocolate-covered strawberries, and Frank Jones for his food preparations.

Historic Churches Program
The Historic Churches program was held in July and August, with five churches participating. There was a variety of lectures, music, and historic commentary, with an opportunity to tour each of the historic buildings. Holding the programs on Monday evenings has encouraged greater attendance. Many of the speakers and musicians were local, with donations helping to cover costs of publicity. We thank all those who helped create a successful program again this year—the musicians and speakers who volunteered their time and provided the programs, and those who helped the individual churches, and all those who attended the programs. Please join us again next year.

Icon Painting Workshop
At July’s Icon Workshop, the participants completed an icon of Theotokos (Mother of God), under the guidance of Tatiana Berevosta of the Precious Stone School of Iconography in New York. This year’s coordinators were Paul Raappana, Gerry Adams, and Amy Hubbard. Next summer’s workshop will take place from July 6 to July 11, 2009, in the St. George Greek Orthodox Church. The goal will be to write the icon of Christ, along with the icon of John the Baptist, completed two summers ago, and this year’s icon, will form a triptych. You may contact Paul Raappana at 635-4760 for more information.

Sugar Island Events
The Sault City Commission awarded $6,000 from the Materna Collection of over 1,500 negatives as well as several smaller collections to facilitate this project. The City has been exploring other options and possible locations, still unknown whether the museum will reopen next spring in its current location or in a new one. The museum has a lease that runs through July 2013. The City has been exploring other options and possible locations, including the basement of the new City Hall, our building, and others.

CCHS partnered with the Sugar Island Historical Preservation Society (SIHPS) in August, during the Sugar Island Music Fest. There was a joint booth on the festival grounds, with the CCHS traveling exhibit featuring historic pictures of Sugar Island and St. Mary. The historic First Street, Harbor Hall, which has been renovated over the past couple years, was open for viewing, with a new outhouse constructed by Al Swanson and David Bean, among others. SIHPS held a successful flea market that day. Maps of Sugar Island’s historic sites were created and are available at the CCHS Gift Shop.

Volunteer Opportunities
We continue to need volunteer help in our gift shop. Thanks to Mike Bennett, Christine Luce, Elizabeth Weit, and Mary June, who helped keep the shop open while Karen Sabatine has been away. Our booths at the Downtown Sidewalk Sales, the Sault Summer Arts Festival, and the Sugar Island Music Fest were successful and yielded sales of new and used books, photos, and cards. We are grateful to all of the volunteers who donated their time to these efforts and to those who donated used books.

Capital Campaign
Our capital campaign continues. With the current state of our economy, we need your support now more than ever. Please consider a year-end donation. Donations are also still being accepted for the Paul D. Freedman Memorial Fund of the Capital Campaign.

Robert Money Wins Follo Award
Last newsletter’s late-breaking news was that CCHS board member Rob Money was awarded the Charles Follo Award for playing a key role in preserving and advancing UP history. The award was presented at the Historical Society of Michigan’s 59th Annual U.P. History Conference in Gwinn. During nearly forty years of living and working in the Upper Peninsula, Bob Money has continuously promoted local and regional history, through leadership in historical organizations, lectures, advocacy, and dogged determination. He has used what he loves to tell the story of an area that has long fascinated him, enhancing Upper Peninsula history to a larger audience; and through his efforts has enriched our community. We are proud of all he has done for our community and for the CCHS, and offer him, and his wife, Margaret, our hearty congratulations and thanks.

Building Work
We would like to extend our appreciation to Chuck Fabry, of Soo Welding, for creating, installing, and donating the new railings for our Ashemun Street entrance. They not only look great there, they serve to allow easier access to our gift shop and displays. Jack DeWeese, Mike Bennett, and Dallas and Nancy Steinhaus have continued to provide assistance and maintenance throughout our building.

“Dinner with the John Johnstons”
The dinner theatre took place earlier than usual this year with the public invited to the first night, and the second night reserved for LSU’s Upward Bound students and staff. Pictured here are the participants, from left to right: John Schaefer, Paul Raappana, Dave Stanaway, Dyke Justin, Art Leighton, Otto Bacon, Lona Stewart, Peter DeCourcy, Ray Bauer, Will Fowler, Susan Askwith and friend, Matt Zook, Karen Sabatine, Kelley Justin, Alex Zinkovsky, Jared Benito, and Mike Bennett. (Missing are Eric Kemp, Aquene Kemp, Arline Fitzmaurice, Susan DeCourcy, and Sharon MacLaren.) Next summer’s dinner dates will be Saturday and Sunday, June 27 and 28, with Sunday reserved for Upward Bound students and staff. We look forward to seeing you there!

River of History Museum
The River of History Museum closed for the season on October 15, completing its 16th year as a first class cultural asset to our community. Thousands of tourists and local residents, including many school children, have been inspired by the presentation of our area’s history that the museum offers. The museum has had many new exhibits installed, some grants and endowments, and the support of funding from the City’s Chase S. Osborn Historic Trust fund. Many of these grants were obtained and installed with our organizations help. As we go to press, it is still uncertain whether the museum will reopen next spring from its current location or in a new one.

The museum has a lease that runs through July 2013. The City has been exploring other options and possible locations, including the basement of the new City Hall, our building, and others.

We look forward to a resolution and final determination of a permanent home for the River of History Museum, a historical and cultural treasure for all of us.

Our Neighbors
The Sault Area Farmers’ Market has moved into its new space at the southeast corner of Ashmun Street and Portage Avenue. Congratulations to the city in completing the canopied, planting, and fountain complex. We are pleased to see improvements in our part of town.

St. Vincent DePaul Thrift Store moved out of the old Sault Savings Bank/Tearoom Bay Woods building next to us. The building is available for purchase to anyone interested in helping preserve a historic structure. We are grateful that plans and blueprints by architect Clarence J. Johnson were uncovered during the move and donated to CCHS. There is one plan of our News Building and others of the old Sault Savings Bank and St. Vincent DePaul Thrift Store moved out of the old Sault Savings Bank.


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