President's Report at 2013 Annual Meeting

The past year was an especially busy and productive year for CCHS that started out on a sad note with the passing of Professor Robert Money, a long-time Board member and former President of CCHS. He became involved with the CCHS soon after his arrival in the Sault as a History professor at LSSU in the early 1970s and was still on the board at the time of his death. His stories and insights have been missed by many at the Society.

Besides holding our four general meetings with speakers on a variety of topics, coordinating the Historic Churches program, and our involvement and work at the Historic Water Street Homes, CCHS was involved in a number of noteworthy programs and projects.

Events/Programs
- Co-sponsored the U.P. History Conference held June 22-24, 2012, at which Bernie Arbic was presented with the Charles Follo Award by the Historical Society of Michigan for his contributions to the sharing and preserving of our area's history in his research, books, and involvement with the CCHS.
- 4th Annual History Fest held Aug. 3-5. Co-chaired by Ginny Cymbalist and Susan Askwith.
- Co-sponsored a Michigan Museums Association (MMA) workshop – ABCs of Collection Stewardship, Aug. 11 with Bayliss Public Library.
- Great Michigan Read program – speaker Dee Stevens on March 27, co-sponsored by Bayliss Public Library.
- Hosted Eastern U.P. History Consortium meeting on May 12 with Dan Truckey speaking on creation of affordable displays.
- Maple Ridge Cemetery Tours given in July and Oct. by Caroline Grabowski and Paul Sabourin.

Special Projects
- Historic Water Street Interpretive Signage Project – City contracted with CCHS for help with research, writing, and graphics. Headed by Bernie Arbic.
- Historic Water Street Homes – contracted with the City to coordinate the installation of displays and programming.
- Contracted with Cloverland Electric Cooperative to scan and create an Excel database for the Glass Plate Negative Collection by A.E. Young to document the building of the power house and canal. Cloverland provided volunteers to help with the scanning and led a tour of the Power House on Sept. 24 for CCHS Board members.
- Work on the Baraga House progressed during the summer under Peter DeCourney and Roger Blanchard with the help of Mike Bennett.
- Work on reorganizing and accessioning the collections continued throughout the year. The stage room was converted to a meeting area for the Board and groups. Headed by Carolyn Person.

Fundraising
- Date Plaque Project – sale of plaques indicating year a house or business was built. Headed by Caroline Grabowski.
- Roberts P. and Ella B. Hudson Foundation grant to help fund scholarships and supplies for CCHS's first Sault Summer History Camp.
- Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs grant for Sault Summer History Camp.
- Roberts P. and Ella B. Hudson Foundation grant for the purchase of archival supplies and scanner.
- Osborn Trust funding for the conservation of our 1845 Map of Sault Ste. Marie at the Bentley Library at the University of Michigan.
- Osborn Trust funding for the microfilming at Central Michigan University's Clarke Historical Library of Johnston family journals and historic Sault newspapers.

Capital Campaign
- Progress was made with another sizable payment on the mortgage.

Thank you to all of our wonderful supporters who attended the various events and donated their funds and time to the Society.

Mary M. June, President
CCHS Works with City on Rotary Island Park Project
By Bernie Arbic

The city of Sault Ste. Marie is upgrading facilities at its park on Rotary Island this summer. They are installing new playground equipment, building a fishing pier for the Kid’s Fishing Pond, adding a kayak launch area, and laying down a perimeter pathway that will be accessible to handicapped visitors. Five interpretive panels will be placed along the pathway, covering some of the history of the Little Rapids area, the dredging of Little Rapids Cut, the “cottage culture” that once flourished on Steere Island and Island No. 2, and the Methodist Mission that occupied the mainland area opposite the islands in the mid-1800s. CCHS has contracted with the city to help create the text and images for the panels, just as we did with the thirty Water Street panels done last year, which have been very well-received.

Here’s a sneak preview of three images that will be used in the project. It is expected that the panels will be placed in the park by August of this year.

(Below) This photo was probably taken in the 1950s. The causeway to Rotary Island (which was known only as “Island B” previously) had not yet been built. U.S. Coast Guard Lookout Station #3 was a familiar sight for many years for anyone who traveled Riverside Drive past the Sugar Island Ferry Dock. It was part of the Coast Guard’s Vessel Traffic Control system until decommissioned in 1965. It was removed (burned) in 1976. The J. Burton Ayers is upbound in the Cut, and the Col. James M. Schoonmaker is downbound, but it’s the unidentified little girl in pigtails who makes the picture really come alive!

Tom Manse Collection, courtesy of Roger LeLievre

(Above) The Anishinaabe family of Michael Cadotte, from Garden River, Ontario, repairs a fur-trade era canoe owned by Judge Joseph Steere, on Steere Island, in 1907. Judge Steere was a devoted history buff; he donated his extensive collection of books on the history of the Old Northwest to the Bayliss Public Library, which holds that collection, plus many other rare books, photos, and manuscripts in a special room named for Steere.

Chippewa County Historical Society

In 1895, James Seymour built the first of several cottages that would grace Steere Island for several decades. The Little Rapids Cut—part of the Hay Lake Channel—opened for commercial vessels in 1894, so Seymour’s cottage (aptly named “Edgewater”) was part of the channel scenery from its earliest days. For ships traveling between Lakes Superior and Huron, the new channel reduced the distance by eleven miles. Note the four flags on the Edgewater flagpole: Stars and Stripes on top, of course, with the Canadian flag below it, and then two maritime flags. A $25 gift certificate at the CCHS Gift Shop goes to the first person who tells us what the two maritime flags, in that particular order, might have signified (can that be done, without knowing the colors?)