Anishinaabek Presence in the Bahweting Area

CCHS has chosen to kick off this year’s community commemoration with some of the earliest history of the area. We are pleased to be hosting Colleen Medicine and Cecil E. Pavlat, Sr. as the speakers on Wednesday, January 31 at 7 p.m. at CCHS’s quarterly program. The talk will be held at Bayliss Public Library because CCHS’s meeting space is filled with train layouts for our upcoming open houses.

They will give a presentation on the "Anishinaabek Presence in the Bahweting Area" about the Anishinaabe history of this area up through modern times.

The speakers are both members of Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, which has employed both of them.

Cecil Pavlat retired from the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians in 2015 as the Cultural Repatriation Specialist. He worked in this capacity for nearly 15 years. He is a traditional practitioner within his community. Cecil is most proud to have his two grandchildren who he helps teach culture and traditions, including the Anishinaabemowin language.

Colleen Medicine is the current Cultural Repatriation Specialist for the Sault Tribe. She earned a Master of Science in Administration (M.S.A.) degree in International Administration from Central Michigan University in December 2017.

Join us for an illuminating evening with experts in the field. The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be provided.

Bayliss Public Library, a Superior District Library, is located at 541 Library Drive in Sault Ste. Marie. Since the library will be otherwise closed that evening, please enter by the front door that leads directly into the Community Room. Parking will also be available in adjacent parking lots.

History of Dunbar

CCHS president Carolyn Person gave an informative and entertaining program on the “History of Dunbar, Chippewa County, Michigan: Farm to Recreation Area” in October at the Historical Society. The building was packed and attendees brought their stories to share. The Dunbar site is located on the St. Marys River in Bruce Township. She told about the site’s transformation over 125 years and the various enterprises that were attempted in the area, including an agricultural school.

Save the date:

Rendezvous in the Sault
July 27, 28 & 29, 2018
City Hall grounds, Brady Park, and Historic Water Street Homes
Winter Open Houses
By Ginny Cymbalist

The flashing railroad crossing sign and window decorations, including a “rescued” Santa that once hung from a light pole in downtown Sault Ste. Marie, have welcomed over 500 people to 115 Ashmun this season and there are still two open houses to go. Thank you to Karen Sabatine who donated the Santa that was rescued from a trash heap many years ago and to Gil Cymbalist for cleaning and rewiring it. (Santa has returned to his off-season home.)

Paul Duesing, with his recreation of historic Sault buildings, especially the depot that once stood on Portage Avenue, and Soo Builders Supply made the main “O” gauge model train layout seem even more realistic this year. Thanks to Paul, Gil, Dennis Hank, and Lee Ann Izzard for their combined efforts in making this layout.

Garryn and Rylin Ordiway, with the help of their mother Patty, set up an even larger and more elaborate “O” gauge layout this year. It’s great to see these boys get excited about history and making contributions to our society.

Steven Hallfrisch’s layout of a small “N” gauge train partnered with his “O” gauge trains showed the verity that is available to train enthusiasts. Steven would like to add an “HO” layout next year.

And the trains were only part of the exciting displays. Cherie Tocco, the ultimate Barbie collector, shared her expertise and filled two display cases with her beautiful “Holiday” and “Hollywood” Barbies; many in their original boxes.

Dee Stevens reached back in her memories to share recollections of her and her sister, Meg, carefully choosing the showcased Match Box cars from downtown Sault stores—Woolworths, Scott’s, and Kresge. Dee’s collection fills another display case.

Susan James and Dee Stevens contributed their collections of tiny Fimo clay angels made by Carolyn Person, Ruth Neveu added a fascinating display of antique dolls and some of their tiny clothes, and I showed an extensive, varied collection of Hanukkah dreidels.

This year a very successful piece was added to the open houses. Upon entering, children were given a seek and find activity and they eagerly located items on each display. After completing the activity, each child received an engineer’s cap.

We thank the many people who contributed their collections, helped with set-up/decoration, and welcomed visitors to our open houses. Planning for the 2018-19 open houses has already started. If you have a collection you’d like to show or would like to help, please contact the CCHS office.

CCHS’s Loyal Volunteers
By Carolyn Person

I looked up the word “volunteer” in the internet dictionary and was overwhelmed with the places, local and worldwide where one can offer oneself for a service or undertaking. Volunteers make the world go ‘round and that is very true of the volunteers that keep the Chippewa County Historical Society involved in presenting the history of the Soo and area.

This holiday season CCHS presented three open houses showcasing a wonderful, complex model train layout and several others by local train enthusiasts Paul, Dennis, Gil, Garryn, Rylin, and Steven. Sherry
and Lee Ann provided support and aided in the setup of the train layout. In addition, as Ginny mentioned above, there were numerous other displays to view. Mike demonstrated a modern version of the twirling button on a string. Patty, Judy, Dawn, Bob, Mary, Susan, Jim, Sharon, Joyce, Dee, Ginny and I all were there to help with cookies and cider and to give assistance to the kids joining in the treasure hunt. There were a lot of junior engineers. We were even featured on television (Jim LeHockey)—see the video in our December 14 posting on our Facebook page.

All events were well-attended and happened with the cooperation and generosity of many volunteers. Volunteers will be presenting two more opportunities to experience the trains on Saturdays, January 27 and February 3 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., during the Downtown Ice Fest and the I-500, respectively. If you would like to assist with the open houses, please email cchs@sault.com.

The CCHS Board is also comprised of volunteers. Many are still employed and find time to participate in activities. Office/collections volunteers Kathy, Marian, Joyce, Dawn and Dee faithfully come every week to spend time with the computers and data entry. Some of these volunteers have been giving their expertise (typing skills), knowledge and humor for five years or more. This is volunteer dedication.

Hank walked into the Society a year ago asking if there was anything he could do. We pointed to a computer with Past Perfect software and he was off and running. He has organized our mailing list, membership and donor records, forms, etc. and has offered many creative ideas. Shawn and Mindy patiently help when the computer does something that we can’t figure out after the wrong button is pushed by mistake.

Every newsletter I invite anyone interested in history to join us for a few hours, Mondays and Fridays. It’s a great group and interesting things always come up. Contrary to the volunteer definition (a person who works for an organization without being paid) we do work for peanuts!

Memories of Camp Raco

CCHS and Bayliss Public Library co-hosted an event at the library in September about the history of Camp Raco. Greg Swallow, an M.A. Candidate at Central Michigan University, was the presenter. He told about how it opened as a Civil Conservation Corps (CCC) camp in 1933. In 1942, it was the last one to close in the U.P., shortly before the CCC program was cancelled. It was a POW camp for seven months in 1945. He also shared information on the archaeological dig he conducted on the site last June.

The public shared their photos and documents and stories of the camp for a very successful event. Lots of good connections were made.

Thank you to Janet Russell, CCHS Board member and President of the Bay Mills-Brimley Historical Society, for her help with planning this event.

Historical Society of Michigan

In November, CCHS hosted the first meeting of the Historical Society of Michigan’s Michigan History Alliance UP East Region. The newly formed History Alliance is a regionalized program that helps HSM member organizations preserve and promote history by fostering collaboration, sharing information and best practices, and
providing training for their staff and volunteers. CCHS hosted representatives from at least six different area groups. Afterwards, a History Skills Workshop was held with Michelle Briggs, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Park Ranger at the Soo Locks Visitor Center, presenting "Exhibits 101: Upgrades on Tight Budgets." The next meeting and workshop will be held on Thursday, March 29 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Fort de Baude Museum in St. Ignace. There is a fee for the workshop “What Do We Do with This Stuff? Deaccessioning, Found Items, and Unclaimed Loans.” You may find more information at https://hsmichigan.org/programs/workshops.

Chippewa County News of the 1920s
By Jim Dwyer

On November 11, 1926, the Sault Evening News presented an article about (one or two) interesting new developments.

One was titled: “Jail Birds Play Their Cell Blues” with a sub-headline of: “Hoosegow Harmonizers Are Open for All Engagements.”

They were led by Professor Charles Smith, who was the conductor. He announced that the musical group was open for public engagements and that requests should be addressed to the county jail.

“Professor” Smith happened to be the chief deputy sheriff. A large repertoire by the Harmonizers was promised. Professor Smith was quoted as saying, “you ought to hear them play ‘Red, Red Robin’ and ‘Bye, Bye Blackbird.’”

The orchestra consisted of four pieces. The French Harp (mouth organ) player was Clifford Williams. It was noted that the orchestra would be losing him in a week (presumably due to an anticipated release from jail). The bass French Harpist was Leo Bennett who twiddled the bones and Arne Henwricke was the “xylophones” artist. He claimed that he was able to prime real music out of a multitude of beer bottles and a milk bottle.

Professor Smith was conducting daily practices after members were done peeling potatoes and scrubbing out the jail.

It was noted that the orchestra would have condescended to appear with amateurs at a recent event at the armory but one of the notes of the xylophone fell off a shelf and broke. It couldn’t be replaced in time for the program.

There was also coverage of an event concerning rural Chippewa County children. Seventy-five boys and girls from every part of Chippewa County would be attending the first annual roundup of Calf Clubs and Canning Clubs in the Soo.

A banquet was scheduled to be held in the parlors of the First Presbyterian Church. That was to be followed by a meeting in the church auditorium. It was anticipated that the County Agricultural agent, D.L. McMillan, would be the guest speaker. Other scheduled speakers were state and county club leaders. Club champions for the county calf and sewing clubs were to be announced and prizes to be presented. The roundup was the first ever scheduled in Chippewa County.

Summer History Camp
By Patty Olsen

Ginny Cymbalist and Patty Olsen, both retired teachers, are planning an exciting history camp for this summer. Camp dates are June 18-22. We will begin our study with Michigan Statehood and continue to investigate the history of our city as it celebrates its 350th birthday.
schools later this year regarding the camp. The cost of the camp is $75. There are some scholarships available. Thank you to the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs for their grant in support of the 2018 History Camp.

If you would like to receive information as soon as it is available, please write to cchs@sault.com.

Hudson Foundation Grants

We would like to thank the Roberts P. and Ella B. Hudson Foundation for their support of CCHS in 2017. $1,000 was received in the fall for updating our equipment for our database projects. And $2,000 was received in the winter for an exciting publication project that you will hear more about in our April newsletter.

Sault Ste. Marie Education Program

Retired fourth grade teacher Patty Olsen felt it was very important for our young people to have an opportunity to learn and appreciate the long and colorful history of our city, especially on its 350th birthday.

All students in grades 2 through 5 in the Sault Area Public Schools and at J.K.L. Bahweting and St. Mary’s will have this privilege. The students will each be given the book *Color the History of the Sault* that was produced by the Chippewa County Historical Society and features drawings by area artists and text by Sharon MacLaren. Teachers in these grades will be given a guide to assist them with teaching the lessons. Classes who participate in the program will be given a tour of the River of History Museum in the spring.

A special thank you to Dr. Thomas Robinson, President of the River of History Museum, for his work in securing grants to fund this project.

*Thank you to the following people and businesses. We greatly appreciate your support.*

You will note that a change has been made on your membership card and newsletter label. Your due date is now calculated by your payment date, instead of having all memberships expire on December 31. This will help us earn income year round.

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Featured Donation
CCHS is the lucky recipient of a section of mailboxes and a service window from the Raco Post Office. It came through the estate of Sault collector Richard Trautwein. The Superior Township post office was established in 1915.

The accompanying photograph shows the items as they were displayed at Richard’s home. Check it out the next time you visit CCHS.
The 350th Calendar

By Bernie Arbic

The year 2018 is a very special one for the historical community in Sault Ste. Marie. It is the 350th Anniversary of the founding of the Jesuit “Mission de Sainte Marie du Sault” in 1668 by Father Jacques Marquette. Chippewa County Historical Society was heavily involved recently in the production of a special calendar to help commemorate this major anniversary.

We are becoming well-known for our large archive of historical photos. As a result, several months ago Mary Jo DuVall, at Sault Events, contacted us and asked if we could provide some images for the eighteen-month calendar they planned to produce. So Carolyn Person and I created a folder of “candidate images” from our archives, and spent the better part of an afternoon showing them to Mary Jo. Ultimately, she decided to use our images for twelve of the eighteen months in the calendar, plus the back cover. I enjoy writing captions for photos, so I provided them for all of the ones that CCHS supplied. We are very proud of the final product! It is available for $10.00 in our Gift Shop, at Bayliss Public Library through the Friends group, and at many local stores. It can also be purchased from our online Gift Shop for $15.00 plus tax, which includes the cost of shipping and handling. And if you get one, be sure to hang on to it—not only for its historical value. The 2018 portion of the calendar will be accurate again in 2029, 2035, 2046, 2057, etc. If you plan to be around after 2057, you’ll have to do the math yourself—it’s fun, and slightly complicated by leap years.

We show in this article the image used for the month of October, 2018, and the image used on the back cover. The neighborhood stores in the October collage are, clockwise from the upper left: Bye’s Market, Vet’s Market, Dave’s Market, Tobias Grocery, Nelson’s Market, and Bagnall’s Market. We included in the calendar caption the addresses of the stores, and approximate dates when they operated. The map on the back cover of the calendar is the 1888 “Map of the Cities of Sault Ste. Marie Michigan and Ontario;” it is printed in color on the calendar, which enhances it a lot. The calendar caption includes some (we think) interesting features which show up on the map, plus the fact that in 1888 the population of Sault, Michigan was more than twice as large as the population of Sault, Ontario. Today, our Ontario sister-city has about five times as many residents as Sault, Michigan.
YES! I want to be a CCHS Member!

Membership Rates

- Individual $20
- Family $30
- Student $10
- Senior $10
- Contributing $50
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Please keep me in mind for:  ☐ Volunteer Work  ☐ Board Member

Make checks payable to: Chippewa County Historical Society, P.O. Box 342, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Upcoming Events

Join us on Wednesday, January 31 at 7 p.m. at Bayliss Public Library for a talk by Colleen Medicine and Cecil Pavlat on the “Anishinaabek Presence in the Bahweting Area.”

Join us at our Open Houses on Saturdays, January 27 and February 3 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at CCHS.

Office Hours:
Mondays and Fridays at back door.
Please call ahead, 635-7082.

Gift Shop Hours:
Open during events, office hours, and by appointment. Otherwise closed until May 15.