



# Museum Matters

*the Winter 2014-2015 newsletter of the*

## Elk Rapids Area Historical Society

Exploring the past... Understanding the present... Envisioning the future

### Elk Rapids Students Visit the Museum

*by Dolores Hibbard*

October and November have been busy months at the museum, which hosted nearly three hundred local students with their teachers, in six different groups. The students utilized the museum to fulfill some curriculum requirements pertaining to the history of their area and the people who lived here before.

The first graders experienced a way of life far before their time, with the help of volunteers Judy Lopus, Joanie Braun, and Kathy Walle all dressed in vintage clothing. They led the children through a typical day "back then", without modern conveniences. They also visited the classroom downstairs to see what school was like.

*See "Students" on page 3*



# MUSTANG IS 50 YEARS OLD!

By Dolores Hibbard and Dan Wettlaufer

This year is the 50th anniversary of the Ford Mustang! On Thursday, October 9th, the Cruisin' Pirates Car Club - and other Mustang owners - gathered at the Elk Rapids Historical Society Museum grounds to display their favorite car.

Fourteen Mustangs were displayed along the eastside of the museum. This did not include our neighbor to the south who coincidentally had their Mustang on display, next to their garage, for sale. Two owners of older Mustangs, J.R. Gentry and Dave Fawcett proudly displayed their 1965 cars. Mr. Gentry bought his Mustang mostly in original condition. However, Mr. Fawcett spent eight years restoring his car.



Several Pirates brought their "special cars" for additional display. There were over 150 people who viewed the Mustangs. Fox Motors (thanks to Tony Bonnano) loaned us a 2015 Mustang for our program. The new 2015 model has a turbocharged V6, and looks great in red!

Following was a program presented by Ken Dabrowski, who spent 35 years at Ford as a Programs Director. He credits Hal Sperlich with being the Father of the Mustang. He gave an interesting review of the Mustang history through

various changes in underbody, design, and horse power. At one point, the Mustang was cancelled due to decreased sales volume. At that point, a group of zealots at Ford started the "Skunk Works." Working after hours, they came up with a new design that was so successful it kept the vehicle in production.

Approximately 115 people were in attendance for Ken Dabrowski's presentation. This is the second month that a Cruisin' Pirate has packed the house (Lee Scott's September presentation, The History of Coca Cola also was a big draw). A special thank you must go out to these two community minded leaders.

A special thanks to Marcia Graham for her recruitment efforts in bringing numerous new ERAHS members to pitch in. Dan LeBlond did his usual great job organizing this event and being the Master of Ceremony. Many thanks also go out to other ERAHS members who assisted with organizing, setting up, refreshments and cleaning up.

This year's monthly programs have been a rousing success. The ERAHS programs have become a "thing to do" throughout the community. †

## Community Cash is back!

The Village Market's "Community Cash" program is in full swing. From now through Spring, shop at any Villiage Market location and save your receipts for the Elk Rapids Area Historical Society.

The ERAHS was 8th out of 44 in 2014. We received \$600.01 from the Village Market's Community Cash Program. That amount included an additional \$50.00 "bonus" because we finished in the "top 12" for the year.

We thank the Village Market and all who saved their receipts on our behalf. We hope you will keep us in mind again this year.



### ERAHS Board of Directors:

- Dan LeBlond .....President
- Craig Handley .....Vice President
- Adam Schuler .....Treasurer
- Marcia Graham .....Secretary
- Inez Gotts .....Trustee
- Dan Ernst .....Trustee
- Jane Lund .....Trustee
- Daniel Wettlaufer .....Trustee

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## President's Report:



Looking back at the past fiscal year and beginning of the current one, I'm amazed at all that our volunteers have accomplished! For example, Dan Wettlaufer, Maintenance Committee Chair reported in October:

"It's been a busy summer. Dale Dillon, Ross Graham, Jane Lund, Howard Richter, Glenn Neumann, Karen Szymanski and others have accomplished some important tasks. A special thanks goes out to these people for their time, effort and in some cases bruises and blood given willingly to the ERAHS. If I've missed anyone please excuse my senility.

### Pending 2014 jobs still in progress:

- Dillon Construction: will repair metal ceiling at main entrance way (some metal molding will be done in the future when adequate/correct materials are located)

### Jobs Accomplished:

- Dillon Construction: repaired walls and painted the office hallway and above museum office, and insulated ceiling at main entrance way
- filters for the furnaces and air conditioners were replaced
- a stockpile of furnace and air conditioner filters were purchased and placed in the old furnace room
- the outside ground gutter drain (north west corner of building) was removed due to not performing as it should
- excess rock and brick fragments were removed from around building
- addition of a portable dehumidifier for the basement, which seems to be working very well
- garden weeds were removed
- rock gardens completed
- trees and shrubs trimmed
- front door knocker installed
- moved surplus pews
- placed wooden boards above office for additional storage
- acquiring and delivery of new/used chairs
- repaired communication cable conduit

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## Students

from page 1

The third graders were treated to a presentation by Hank Bailey, an Anishinaabe of the Black Wolf Clan, and an active member of the Odawa and Chippewa Tribe. He was dressed as a traditional men's dancer and shared the meanings of articles in his attire with the students. Mr. Bailey discussed Native American beliefs: "Circle of Life", which includes respect for all things; and, "Walk in a Good Way", which refers to our life choices and their affect on others and the environment. Four volunteers aided when the students could handle the Native American items Mr. Bailey brought. They were Kathy Magnell, Victoria Welter, Kathy Peterson, and Pat Schumacher.



Sixth graders interviewed Glenn Neumann and Marge Paradis, living historians in the area, as well as seeing "The Rivers the Same", an award winning video of early Elk Rapids by Glenn Ruggles.



The last group of second graders approached the various cultures that have influenced Elk Rapids by taking a Living History Tour. The students were divided into four groups, each of which dealt with a different ethnic group.

*Concluded next page*



The Native American group was conducted by Judy Johnson with help from Marsha Graham.



Joanie Braun and Kathy Magnell dealt with the affect of the Swedish and Norwegian peoples.



Ann Cassen, Jane Lund (above), and Cathy Walle discussed the Irish contribution, while Sue Pryde and Diane Richter presented the German participation (below).



This was a good use of the museum facilities and an important resource for the students, many of whom had never visited a museum before. But, the numerous and informative programs could not have happened without the help of the volunteers. ✚



Shown above are all of the volunteers for the second grade visit; left to right: Kathy Magnell, Joanie Braun, Ann Cassen, Sue Pryde, Cathy Walle, Judy Johnson, Dianne Richter and Marcia Graham.

- located, matched and purchased metal ceiling tiles for main entrance way
- Plexiglas installed to protect and insulate bell tower
- rope to tower bell put in position to prohibit public access
- fertilized front lawn
- wood chips/mulch added to all rock gardens
- sealed broken exterior bricks
- safety and security exterior lights made functional
- leveled front lawn with fill dirt (areas in front lawn where additional drainage piping was installed and repair of front sump pump piping)
- reseeded front lawn in work areas
- applied anti bird nesting devices in three exterior areas
- moved, cleaned and installed 1932 refrigerator
- installation of curtain rod for display purposes (basement)
- gravel and concrete blocks placed in missing sidewalk section at rear entrance
- storage shed was repaired and improved (west exterior wall)
- useable yellow bricks were stacked in outside shed
- emergency flash lights were added for safety
- contacting Elk Rapids Electric to receive quote for museum emergency lighting (to be used in acquiring grant funding)
- installed wireless doorbell at back entrance
- worked back entrance door so it will close/seal by itself
- Dale and Ross are in the process of insulating, closing and installing paneling to missing basement window (west basement wall)
- as of this writing Dale has a stained glass expert examining the museum's windows
- the Village Scape continues to move forward, buildings and landscaping have been added
- removal of surplus cinder blocks from basement
- The maintenance group met with Fred Campbell and assistant three times to provide input for Phase II plans (main water supply and rehabilitation of two bathrooms). Once fundraising reaches the amount needed the main water supply to the building will be rerouted and replaced by adequate (building code) piping.
- It has been a rainy summer plus last winter's record snow and ice. Did not see any indication of water leak-

ing from the walls. Ground water levels did rise and moisture, in the form of dampness, does enter the building from the floor. With the addition of the new larger and self-draining dehumidifier the basement humidity seems to be under control. Based on the location of the museum (two blocks from Lake Michigan, at the bottom of a hill and probably build on wet lands) we are doing very well with controlling ground water. From reports, our neighbors' basements are experiencing much more water problems than us.

Another season is behind us. I'm happy to see the progress made throughout the EHAHS Museum. We all need to step back and remember what tasks have been accomplished and what problems have been solved. Lots of hard work, expertise and tenacity has been demonstrated by the staff. Many thanks to all of you for allowing me to be part of this wonderful organization.

*Report by Daniel L. Wettlaufer, Maintenance Committee*

## PHASE II Capital Improvement Plans

In early October the Board commenced fundraising for the next round of Capital Improvements, also known as "Phase 2." The lower level of the museum currently has exhibit space, archival storage and table space for Board meetings and visitor researching.. Currently this level is not handicap accessible.

This project, which creates legal and useful lower-level access, has the following components which have been prioritized as follows:

### **Priority 1. New Water Line:**

Replace the existing water line with a new one that has sufficient capacity to handle the new bathrooms and exhibit infrastructure.

**Priority 2. American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance:** Create an accessible entrance to the lower level with ramp, proper doorway and entranceway.

**Priority 3. ADA Compliance:** Install/Remodel two accessible bathrooms in the lower level.

**Priority 4. Exhibit Infrastructure:** Install a sink, water supply, drain for sink and electrical hook-ups at an exterior wall of a bathroom -- to be used as part of "Exhibit Area J" that needs this infrastructure.

**Priority 5. Create a driveway in or near the south alley as well as a proper accessible parking area.** Provide a sidewalk that connects the parking lot to the entranceway.

Grant writing has commenced to fund this project. On September 1st 2014, three grant requests were submitted. One has been denied and the others we await to hear from the grantor. On December 1st, 2014, another grant will be submitted. As the case with many grant requests, the grantee (your Historical Society) has to

commit a certain percentage of the total project cost. The total project cost for Phase 2 is \$79,000. Our 21% commitment percentage amounts to \$16,500.

An anonymous donor came forth and offered a "\$5,000 Challenge Gift" to help fund Priority 1, the new water line to the building and infrastructure to the remodeled bathrooms. The Board commenced a "\$5,000 Challenge Gift" campaign in our last newsletter and I'm pleased to announce that by November 15th we raised the additional \$5,000. Thirty (30) members and friends responded to the appeal. Their contributions amounted to \$5,550! With the anonymous donor's contribution we now have \$10,550 in the bank to pay for Priority 1. We hope to get that started in early spring 2015.

But that isn't the end of the fundraising. We still need to raise \$6,000 to reach our 21% commitment percentage amount of \$16,500 and more, because rarely do grantors award the full amount requested. To raise more funds we are sending out an "annual appeal letter" before year-end to those members and friends who have not contributed already to our Phase 2 capital improvement project.

### **Board Member/Trustees are needed.**

There are three vacancies to fill to help guide the future of ERAHS.

### **Volunteers Always Needed - Join Us Today!!**

You can volunteer to participate in any of the following:

#### **Programs:**

Assist the program coordinator/committee chair for the traditional evening programs/educational meetings. Duties might be to contact, schedule, introduce speakers, place program signs around the village and return them to the museum.

#### **Museum Committee:**

Greeting visitors when the museum is open, guiding visitors to the facilities (i.e. bathroom) and monitoring collections during open hours. Dusting the artifacts, arranging exhibits, answering the phone. This could be as few as a couple of hours a month or several a week depending on the volunteer.

#### **Fundraising:**

Duties might be addressing envelopes for appeal letters and assisting the coordinator with fundraising events. We have numerous events in the planning stage and with the help of volunteers we can pull them together to continue raising funds.

#### **Greeters:**

Welcoming visitors to the museum during open hours,

during programs or at special events.

#### **Host/Hostess:**

Help in arranging refreshments for evening programs and/or special events.

#### **Building and Grounds:**

Assisting the chairman with routine maintenance, repairs and monitoring of building and enhancement of landscaping.

#### **Technical Support:**

This could be a computer, office equipment, or audio video. "Technician." A person who could hook up a projector to a laptop or our audio/visual high definition wall-mounted TV screen. HELP is really needed here!

#### **Data Entry:**

Training available on PastPerfect Museum Software to assist with data entry of artifacts, membership records and fundraising results by various campaigns

#### **Newsletter:**

Become the Editor or Assistant. One writes articles or helps others write them. When a draft copy is ready, lays it out in software such as Microsoft Publisher or comparable product and takes it to the printer. Labels are printed, put on the documents, then they are taken to the Post Office.

#### **Web Site:**

Assists the chair with website management, online sales of gifts, books and other items on the internet.

#### **Archival:**

Catalogue objects, photos, miscellaneous paper documents and books. Assist with accessions and de-accessions of same. Helps with the management of the archival space.

#### **Antique Booth:**

Manage and stock the antique booth #82 at Harbor Antiques Mall (located at corner of River and Cedar Streets in Elk Rapids.

#### **Membership:**

Assist the Board Secretary with membership data entry, sending our dues renewal notices, and occasionally organize membership (new) drives.

If you would like more information on volunteering, contact Dan LeBlond, President, (231) 264-8984, e-mail: [president@elkrapidhistory.org](mailto:president@elkrapidhistory.org) or contact

Marcia Graham, Secretary, (248) 542-4208, e-mail: [rdmagraham@gmail.com](mailto:rdmagraham@gmail.com) 

## *Monthly programs for 2015:*

April 9th.....2nd Thursday.....P. Van Den Berge .....History of ER Fire Department  
 May 7th.....1st Thursday.....James & Lauren Dake.....3,000 Miles Across America By Bicycle  
 June 4th.....1st Thursday.....To be determined  
 July 2nd.....1st Thursday.....Dale Lopus .....History of *The Lone Ranger*  
 August 6th .....1st Thursday.....To be determined  
 September 3rd .....1st Thursday.....Susan Hall.....Samels Farm Archeology & History  
 October 1st.....1st Thursday.....Dan LeBlond .....Annual Meeting & Potluck Supper  
 November 5th.....1st Thursday.....To be determined

## *Welcome New Members!*

<b>Barbara Rinckey</b> Grand ledge, MI	<b>James H. Kent</b> Kewadin, MI	<b>Richard &amp; Charlene Gray</b> Kewadin, MI	<b>Tom &amp; Debbie Lance</b> Kewadin, MI
<b>Bob &amp; Sandra Gray</b> Kewadin, MI	<b>Jamie Arlis</b> Batavia, IL	<b>Richard &amp; Jean Lamphier</b> Elk Rapids, MI	<b>Tony &amp; Jeanne Bonanno</b> Kewadin, MI
<b>Cathy Benson</b> East Lansing, MI	<b>Ken &amp; Valarie Dabrowski</b> Kewadin, MI	<b>Sharon Brown</b> Elk Rapids, MI	<i>(as of 12/01/2014)</i>
<b>Clyde Atkinson</b> Kewadin, MI	<b>Lee &amp; Doris Scott</b> Kewadin, MI	<b>Steve Amick &amp; Sharyl Burau</b> Ann Arbor, MI	
<b>Frederick V. Hans</b> Kalkaska, MI	<b>Marcia Gibson</b> Auburn, AL	<b>Steve McLain</b> Elk Rapids, MI	
<b>Gene &amp; Mary LaSarge</b> Grandville, MI	<b>Mike Laird</b> Crystal, MI		

## *Yes! I want to support The Elk Rapids Historical Museum!*

Gift Amount:  \$50  \$100  \$200  \$500  \$1,000  \$2,500  Other

I have enclosed a check payable to ERAHS

Please print clearly:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Summer address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Winter address (if different) \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to be recognized for this donation  Yes  No

If yes, please list my/our name(s) as \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to give my gift  in Honor of  in Memory of

Name \_\_\_\_\_

(please include a note with acknowledgement information)

*Become a member of ERAHS and receive free admission to monthly programs and other benefits:*

- Single - \$25
- Family - \$40
- Business - \$50
- Patron - \$100

*The Elk Rapids Area Historical Society is a 501C (3) non-profit corporation. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

*Thank you for your support!*  
[www.elkrapidshistory.org](http://www.elkrapidshistory.org)

**Mail to: ERAHS, P.O. Box 2, Elk Rapids MI 49629-0002**

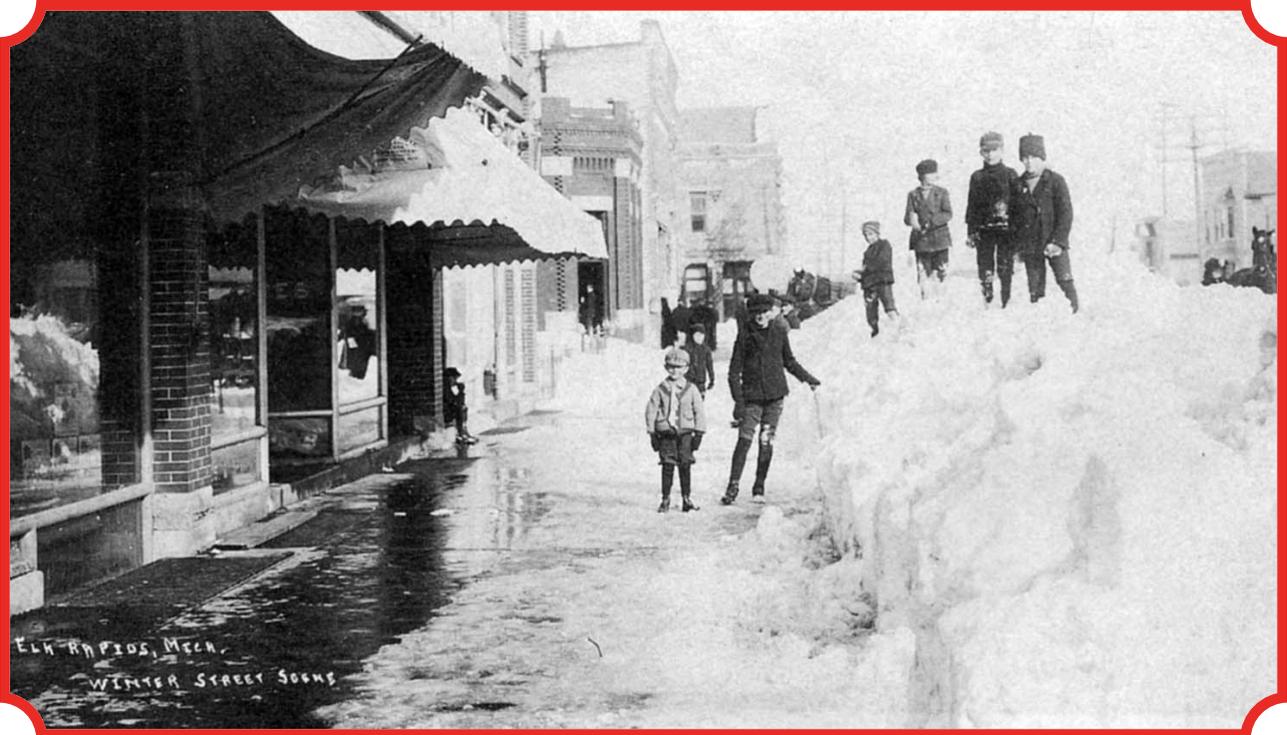


# Elk Rapids Area Historical Society

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*Deliver to:*



*There is nothing like a little snow to get one in a holiday mood. We wish you and yours the best of the holiday season and happiness and health in the new year.*

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