



WOW!! THANK YOU !! THANK YOU!!

Our membership drive last year added many new and former members. 2018 totaled 340 memberships at various levels, an increase of 163 new or renewed memberships. We are extremely grateful to all of you. However, the society has much existing work to pursue. As we continue to look at the present and to the future, the Society needs to grow our family memberships. In the coming year we begin the expansion addition to the Print Shop (see article on page 4); the opening of Protar's home as one of our Museums; the maintenance of the Beaver Head Lighthouse and the implementation of an Historical Walking Trail in the village, just to name a few projects.

Your membership and support is VITAL to our success. Please continue to join and travel with us as the Society continues to fulfill our mission to *preserve and share the unique history of Beaver Island and the Archipelago*.

Our membership year runs from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019. A Membership form is found on the back page of this newsletter and on our website www.beaverislandhistory.org/

Mission Statement:

The purpose of the Society is to preserve and share the unique history of Beaver Island and the Archipelago.

Vision Statement:

The Society will share the unique historical stories of the Archipelago through the renovated and expanded museums.

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MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

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MIKE WEEDE - VICE PRESIDENT
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TRACY PAQUIN- TRUSTEE
CRAIG TURNBULL- TRUSTEE
ALVIN LaFRENIERE—TRUSTEE

HONORARY TRUSTEES:

JOHN RUNBERG
DOUG HARTLE

MEET THE BIHS BOARD TRUSTEES

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

It is with great pleasure and pride to introduce our Honorary Board Members. These distinguished members are recognized for their dedicated service and leadership to the Society. We recognize and value their organizational memory, wisdom, insight and values. They are a major component of our success. Together our honorary board members have a combined service equal to SIXTY PLUS years!



Johnny Runberg began volunteering for the Society when he retired and moved to the Island in 1985. He worked in the Marine Museum and shortly after joined the board and became president. He helped build the Heritage Park barn and numerous other projects. He served many terms as the President. Johnny is deeply committed to preserving the history of Beaver Island and staying active at the Marine Museum because his Grandfather and Uncles were Beaver Island boat builders, adding, *"Its been a pleasure to serve."*



Doug Hartle began volunteering for the Society in the early 1980s as a docent at the Marine Museum. He helped design the barn at Heritage Park and worked on the Bob S. He later joined the board in the 2000s and recently served three consecutive terms as President, 2008-2017. When asked what he liked the most, *"I enjoyed working with the Board and meeting the Public. The board has grown, learned a lot and the future looks better than ever."*

RECENTLY ELECTED TRUSTEES



Vincent W. Ebersoldt- Vince has been coming to the island with his wife Meg and their sons Campbell and Levi for 20 years, and the past 7 years as a homeowner. The president of Ebersoldt + Associates Architecture in St. Louis, Missouri, Vince is active throughout the country specializing in multi-family housing, historic architecture, real estate development and several philanthropical activities. Having joined the BIHS Board in early 2018, he has become extremely active in assisting the BIHS and the BI community as much as he can.



Angel Welke- Angela LeFevre-Welke moved to Beaver Island nearly 18 years ago when she married Paul Welke, owner of Island Airways. Today, she is the President of Island Airways. As a full time resident of Beaver Island she has served on several committees and boards including the Beaver Island Rural Health Center, Preservation Association, Chamber of Commerce and Transfer Station. She has also served as a member of the National Air Transportation Association (NATA) Airport Committee.



Tracy Paquin- My grandparents bought our property on Lake Genesereth in 1944. I have vacationed here for 60 years. In 2015, I retired from a career in healthcare and realized my life long dream of living on Beaver Island full time. I am a docent at both museums and also volunteer in other capacities for the historical society. I see so much potential to share the unique history of our island and archipelago. I'm excited to be a part of this as a board member.



Craig Turnbull- Craig Turnbull loves Beaver Island, as does his wife Karen, and the whole family, who've made home here for over 30 years. The natural beauty, history, and nostalgia of this place seems to have captivated him. Craig taught history, sociology and government for 30 years down-state, and coached over 62 teams of kids during his service. Careful if you see him town, after coming out the woods he's liable to try to spin a yarn.

DIRECTORS CORNER

By Lori Taylor-Blitz, Executive Director

Greetings! A huge thank you to our members for supporting the Historical Society and attending our events. We had a phenomenal season and I am looking forward to next year. So many good things are happening in our community! We have been working with the other organizations and collaborating on future events and finding new opportunities to pair our missions and offer creative island programming. You will read in the following pages about the Print Shop construction! After many years of planning, successful funding, and a thoughtful re-evaluation process, we are happy to announce we have started moving forward with our plans (see pages 3-4).

The Beaver Head Lighthouse sale continues to head in the right direction. We are hopeful a transfer will soon take place from Charlevoix Public Schools to a collaborative partnership between the Charlevoix County Commissioners, Networks Northwest and the Beaver Island Historical Society! When the ink dries on the final paperwork we will soon begin helping to facilitate more public access and participate in seeking funding for appropriate Historic Preservation opportunities for structural rehabilitation. Stay tuned for more details next summer and make your plans now to attend, Sunday, July 14, 2019 for a Second Annual "This Place Matters" Picnic at the Lighthouse. This year we were also able to partner with St. James Township and offer (for a first time ever) tours of the Whiskey Point Lighthouse. These were both very successful and we have plans to offer again next summer. Why not plan your next summer boodle to tour both lighthouses?

Next Museum Week is July 14-20. Our plans will again include a speaker series for lunch time talks throughout the summer. Do you have an idea for an event? I would love to hear from you. My winter contact number is (906) 361-2031 or call the Print Shop to get full winter contact information.

May your Holidays joyous and blessings be bountiful. See you in the Spring.

IN MEMORY OF ROD NACKERMAN

By Maeve Green, Trustee

The Print Shop has a new Docent DESK via a donation in memory of Rod Nackerman by his grandchildren. Rod was a dedicated volunteer at the Print Shop Museum. He was a true Island character, kind, hardworking, intelligent, and had a great sense of humor. He volunteered at the Beaver Island Historical Society for over 30 years. Many visitors to the Print Shop Museum remember chatting with Rod. He was one of the highlights of many visitors to the museum. From behind the docent's desk, he made newcomers feel as if they were old friends. Rod is greatly missed by all of this old friends. This Arts & Crafts style desk was designed and built by Charlie Creaser, owner of Beaver Island Furniture. The desk was constructed with Spalted Beech wood harvested on Beaver Island. Be sure to check it out during your next visit to the Print Shop.



Rod Nackerman volunteering in the Mormon Print Shop



Desk delivery day by Charlie Creaser.



Charlie Creaser working on The desk in his workshop.

THE MORMON PRINT SHOP IS UNDERGOING NEEDED CONSTRUCTION!

By Bobbi Welke, Trustee

Over the years, the Mormon Print Shop Museum condition, including the front porch and old back room, deteriorated such that it no longer serves the community adequately. With the construction of a new addition, there will be opportunities to display professionally designed museum exhibits and provide additional outdoor programming.

The Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that a legacy benefactor, George Bisbee of Jackson MI, provided the Society just over \$500,000, which will be used for financing the Print Shop Addition, including some of the exhibits. The Board is also grateful to the many Island benefactors who have supported the expansion concept and contributed to the capital campaign already and to those future benefactors who will continue to support the Society in fulfilling the vision to share the unique historical stories of the Archipelago through the renovated and expanded museum.

Architectural services are being provided pro-bono by Ebersoldt + Associates Architects, and its owner, Vince Ebersoldt, a long-time Island visitor, Island property owner and benefactor, as well as a BIHS Trustee. The Board of Trustees are extremely grateful to Vince and his team for the work they are doing on behalf of the Society, helping to keep Island History Alive!

BIHS hired McDonough Construction to complete the porch project, remove the old back room, and advise the architect regarding the new addition. A contract regarding the new addition has yet to be established with any firm.

The front porch was removed and replaced during the Fall of 2018. The old back room was also removed. An Archaeology group from Northern Michigan University will perform an extensive investigation beneath the old back room in the spring so the site is cleared for future construction work.

Exterior Building Plans were presented to the public on November 5 at the Library, and are shown below. The new modern exhibit room will have a handicap accessible entrance and a cathedral ceiling to permit an open room concept, moveable exhibits and an outdoor plaza that is accessed by a wide slider door for outdoor programming. There will be a small classroom and artifacts storage room adjacent the exhibit room.



The construction schedule has yet to be determined, however, completion is expected in the Spring of 2020. Please follow the Society's website for continuing updates. As members of the Historical Society, we welcome your input. Please contact the BIHS Building Committee at bihistory@tds.net or call us at 231-448-2254 to obtain our winter contact information to share your comments about the exterior plans.

PRINT SHOP HISTORY

By Lynne Flanagan, Trustee

Arciel Roy Wyatt. It's the middle name that gives a clue to her history on Beaver island. She's the daughter of A.J. and Mabel Roy. This summer she came here to visit the Print Shop and to speak to Adam Richard's class about her father and his achievements on the island.

One day, A.J. Roy received a phone call from Russell Hoffman, who let him know that plans were being made to tear down the old Mormon Print Shop. Evidently it was considered a fire hazard as kids were smoking in it. People were afraid that if it caught fire, the entire block would burn down. Mr. Hoffman and Mr. Roy bought the Print Shop so it could be preserved. A.J. Roy and Walter Wojan worked to restore the building. Mr. Hoffman served as the president of the newly formed Beaver Island Historical Society (1957). As time went by, Mr. Roy collected objects and opened The Print Shop Museum.

He built a miniature golf course by present day Daddy Frank's (some stone slabs are still there) and his daughter, Arciel told the children at the school that in a summer, she scooped over 1000 cones. The little building between Daddy Frank's and Flattail Furs, was the ice cream stand.

Later Mr. Roy purchased the present-day Marine Museum and negotiated with Mr. Protar's granddaughter to buy an acre that included the Protar home. Thus we discovered that with Mr. Roy's foresight, we have inherited two museums and the Protar home.



If you would like to help fund the new exhibits, please consider sending a check to the Beaver Island Historical Society, P.O. Box 263, Beaver Island, MI 49782 or visit our website. Please note "Print Shop" on your check or online donation and we will restrict your donation to future exhibit expenses only. Thank you!



Volunteer Pride



By Sue Oole, Docent Coordinator

A big thank you to all who volunteered their time this summer. Our volunteers are crucial to our success in fulfilling the Society's mission. Over the winter we will be mailing postcards to our volunteers to affirm interest for shift/museum preferences for 2019. Our Museum Committee will set-up the schedule to start with and the office will handle the shift changes .

Next summer we need a few more volunteers for the Museums and the Protar House. If you know of someone who you think would enjoy the camaraderie, greeting our island visitors and sharing our unique history please let us know and pass our contact information.

We have many projects to volunteer for such as gardening, transfer station runs, organizing Heritage Park, maintenance, painting, newsletter articles, filing, data entry, or photographing artifacts. If you have an idea for a project, or event please call the office and we will try to accommodate you.



The Unexpected Joys of Volunteering



By Tracy Paquin, Trustee

I began volunteering at both museums three years ago. I've always enjoyed history and thought greeting museum visitors would be 'interesting'. I quickly realized that it's beyond interesting--it's exciting and rewarding. Museum visitors are often blown away by the museums' artifacts, photos and stories. We average 300 visitors a week and most stay at least 20 minutes and a stay of an hour is not uncommon. We volunteers hear "*very impressive*", "*what a gem*" and "I'm amazed at what's here". Many visitors come to the museums every time they visit the island and appreciate the new exhibits every year.

Another reason volunteering is so much fun is how interested the visitors are in us and our life on the island. Sometimes they are as taken with us as they are with the native American artifacts, King Strang's Bible or the lifeboat from the Bradley. They ask questions we're all used to--how we get groceries in the winter, how many in our school and where we go for healthcare. Most volunteers know or are related to the families who are showcased in the museums. Visitors love hearing that a volunteer is related to the McCann's, had breakfast with Shing Martin's grandson or plays bingo with Alvina Cornstalk.

Our visitors are fascinating, too! I've met Mariners on the Great Loop traveling a continuous waterway for over a year exploring the Eastern U.S. It's thrilling to talk with first time visitors to Beaver from Brazil, Ireland or Greece. Some visitors become friends and accept invitations to dinner or to our August Bocci Ball Tournament. Volunteering is open to anyone--lifetime and seasonal residents or short-term vacationers! Our contact information is found on page 8! Reach out, we would love to hear from you.

A HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR IS COMING

By Bobbi Welke, Trustee

The Beaver Island Historical Society is placing a 17-sign, 2 ½ mile, Historical Walking Tour through town during the Spring of 2019. Signs will identify historical sites starting at the Beaver Island Boat Dock. The tour continues along Main Street and Michigan Avenue covering nine additional sites until the visitor reaches the old Coast Guard Station (the present St. James Township Hall). The tour moves to the Back Highway/King's Highway for three sites and then returns to Main Street for the final four sites. The last sign will be placed at the Shamrock. The Historical Society is still securing permission from a few property owners and finishing the text on a couple of signs. The funds for this project have been raised through a generous grant by The People Fund from Great Lakes Energy. The location of the tour is summarized on the list to your right. The first "Stop" sign is shown below. Pierre Beaver will serve as a host throughout the tour. A brochure covering this tour be developed in collaboration with other island organizations. Island-wide historical signs are on the radar.

Historical Walking Tour Stop Locations

1. Ferry Dock: Downtown Beaver Island
2. Beaver Island Community Center
3. Beaver Island Ferry Dock/Boats
4. Beaver Island Municipal Dock
5. Post Office
6. King Strang Hotel/Club
7. Marina/Original Beaver Island Lumber Co
8. McDonough's Original Market
9. Marine Museum
10. U.S. Life Saving/Coast Guard Station
11. Beaver Island Townships Cemetery
12. Gatliff/Cole House: First Protestant Church
13. Beaver Island Community School
14. Holy Cross Parish Hall
15. Town Beach/Native American Ancestry
16. Print Shop
17. The Shamrock

HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR – DOWNTOWN BEAVER ISLAND

Stop 1: Welcome to Beaver Island, America's Emerald Island! Pierre Beaver, a friend of the Beaver Island Historical Society, would like to introduce you to several historical sites. Follow Pierre around and learn about the Island's history at various locations throughout the Island. Why do you think this island is called Beaver Island? As you ponder your answer, continue across the street to the 2nd Stop at the Community Center.



QR CODE



Your tour is sponsored by the Beaver Island Historical Society with funding graciously provided by The People Fund from Great Lakes Energy. The QR Code will take you to the Society's Website at www.beaverislandhistory.org which will introduce you to Island history.



MEMBERSHIP YEAR: JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31

We would like to help the Beaver Island Historical Society in its mission of Keeping Island History alive by becoming members or renewing at the indicated level:

Student/Senior \$25.00 ____	Individual \$35.00 ____
Couple \$50.00 ____	Family \$100 ____
Sustaining \$250.00 ____	Benefactor \$500 ____
Other Donation ____	Corporate \$750.00 ____

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Name: _____
Street Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Email Address: _____

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