



BIHS PERFORMANCE REPORT

Activities of the Beaver Island Historical Society

www.beaverislandhistory.org

May 13, 2019

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

Historical Society Activities

2019 Program

Picnics at the Point

The Society, in cooperation with St. James Township, will host a lunch time speaker series each Wednesday, between June 19 and November 13, at the St. James Township Hall. Historical discussions of various people, places, and events will occur. These will cover the airports, roads, water trails, print shop, King Strang, community center, library, various festivals, shipwrecks, lighthouses, fishing, historical photos, etc.

Museum Week

The 39th Annual Museum Week will occur July 14 through July 20, 2019. This week will open with a Beaver Head Lighthouse picnic, followed by Music on the Porch, Heritage Park activities, a stone circle presentation, with the Amik Society and the LTBB, the Art Show, a Strang Series, a Zolton Sepeshy discussion, and other musical events and programming.

Educational Outreach

Central Michigan University Honors Students visited all three properties to gain an understanding of the Island's cultural background and developed several vignettes for WVBI. Northern Michigan University Archaeology visited and completed the Print Shop dig behind the museum. Charlevoix Middle School students will visit the properties in June, as will a group of Boy Scouts. Fremont Middle School will visit mid-June and will help clean the Protar grounds and repaint the Art Show display boards.

Special Events

Throughout the year, the Society will host eight special events plus the This Place Matters Music on the Porch Series, Strang Series Speakers, Lighthouse Tours*, Walking Tours, and Vintage Book Readings. The special events include several history expeditions with BIHS, fish tasting, Third Coast Conversation/Eco-Fair partnership, hosting a Black History Mobile Museum, and Dark Sky and Storytelling. There will be a Pirate Party with a Tall Ship Visit. Refer to the BIHS brochure to learn more about these events.

Corporate Sponsors

For the first time ever, BIHS is partnering with Corporate Sponsors to deliver on the mission and programming of the Society. The sponsors include the Beaver Island Boat Company, Beaver Island Chamber of Commerce, Dalwhinnie Deli/McDonough's Market, Deerwood Holdings Island Airways, and McDonough's Construction.

*St. James Tower Tours in partnership with St. James Twp. Beaver Head Lighthouse Tours await ownership resolution.

The Beaver Island Historical Society, a 501(c)3 organization, operates the Print Shop, Marine Museum, Protar's Home, and Heritage Park with the assistance of a volunteer Board of Trustees and incredible docents who volunteered more than 1,520 hours of work in 2018.

9,001 people from 33 states, a US territory, and four countries visited the museums in 2018. BIHS averaged 300 visitors per week at each museum. 1,350 visitors participated in Museum Week.

Currently, there are 230 members of the Society who are able to:

- Receive semi-annual Newsletters
- Receive the book, "The Elder Speaks"
- Receive 10% off gift shop purchases
- Receive 10% off genealogy research
- Attend a members-only event on August 17, 2019

Membership dues, donations, grants, sales, local taxes, special events, and genealogy research fund the operations of the Society.

The economic impact to the community of the 2018 WaterWays Exhibit installation in June 2018 amounted to nearly \$21,000.

Print Shop Activities

As of May 13, 2019, the Porch and building fronts of the Print Shop and Post Office Addition are nearly complete. Some work remains. The look of the porch/front is outstanding. The Board of Directors are pleased with the quality of the work that McDonough Construction completed especially given the adverse fall and winter weather condition.

The design of the rehabilitation of the Print Shop and Post Office Addition as well as the new building addition is underway. Construction is planned to start in mid-August. A construction schedule has yet to be finalized. A fund-raising effort of an amount to be determined for furnishings, exhibits, and maintenance/operations will be needed.

During the week of May 8th, NMU archaeology students completed their field work behind the Print Shop thereby clearing the site for construction to proceed. During the foundation work in August, an Archeologist will be on-site.

A new well will be drilled by Martin Well Drilling on BIHS property prior to July 1, 2019.

Marine Museum and Protar's Home Activities

A new ramp will be constructed for the public to access Miss Bay City, which will also be placed on a cradle. The Music on the Porch event will be hosted at the Marine Museum on August 10th. Protar's Home will be open twice a week, subject to available docents. The building's chimney will be chinked. The Music on the Porch event will be hosted at Portar's on August 18th.

Publishing

The Society is sponsoring the publication of George Anthony's new book, "The Elders Speak: The Next Generation." This book, reflections on Native American Culture and Life within the Beaver Island Archipelago, is a continuation from George Anthony's first book, "The Elders Speak."



Historical Walking Tour

To honor Beaver Island history and attract visitors, the Society has created an Historical Walking Tour. This tour consists of 17 signs throughout downtown St. James, between the Beaver Island Community School and Whiskey Point. In the future, similar signs could identify historical sites throughout the Island. The signs are to arrive on the Island around the end of May 2019.

Historical Society Funding

2019 Revenues and Expenses (Operations Only)

Revenues

The current Budget Revenues for FY2019 (Nov. 1, 2018 – Oct. 31, 2019) amount to \$159,500. St. James Township taxpayers fund \$12,375 through a mileage and Peaine Township matches this amount. Further revenues are estimated as follows:

- Grants: \$52,250
- Donations: \$25,000
- Special Event Income: \$24,500
- Membership Dues: \$18,000
- Sales: \$15,000

Expenses

The current Budget Expenses for FY2019 amount to \$137,193. The largest costs cover operations at an estimated expense of \$50,801. Nearly half of this operations amount (\$23,161) is for printing. Of this printing amount, \$18,311, is dedicated to publishing the Anthony book and will be expended only if BIHS was fortunate to be the recipient of a publishing Grant. The second largest expense cost is the payroll expense which amounts to \$48,442 which is used for operating the Society year-round. Further expenses are estimated as follows:

- Contract Services: \$12,950
- Projects: \$12,900
- Inventory Purchases: \$5,000
- Events: \$4,700
- Travel/Meetings: \$3,455
- Miscellaneous: \$850

Note: Capital Outlay expenses, available funds, and future fund-raising plans will be discussed via other report(s) once soon-to-be issued building plans are estimated to allow improved budgeting analysis.

Historical Society Future

2020 and Beyond Direction

New Print Shop in Action

The New Print Shop is expected to be operational in 2020! This new functional building will be sharing the unique history of the archipelago through professional exhibits which will be an outstanding feature on Beaver Island.

2020 Program

The 2018 Program certainly was more impressive than the 2017 Society Program; it sets a high bar for future years programs. One overachieving effort in 2019 will be the likely construction of the Print Shop addition and rehabilitation of the Print Shop/Post Office Addition which will allow greater space for modern climate control exhibits, school learning spaces, and interactive displays. The Trustees, Director, and Docents will strive to deliver the best probable future program and facilities for the community and visitors.