

Proposed Wawatam Park Will Have To Wait a Little Longer; DDA To Reapply for Funds

*Continued from page 1

platform on the south side of the dock and signs noting the history of St. Ignace and the waterfront area.

The DDA had applied for \$134,000 from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Development grant program. Of the 108 applications received from around the state, the St. Ignace project ranked 21 from the top. More than \$9 million was awarded to 34 grant applicants.

St. Ignace's application was the highest scoring development grant from the Upper Peninsula, but no Upper Peninsula projects were funded, although seven other Upper Peninsula development projects scored higher than the lowest scoring funded project.

Projects are scored on specific objectives to ensure grants are not awarded arbitrarily. The Trust Fund staff rates communities and provides them with an interim report, which gives the applicants an

opportunity to see how they can increase their score before final numbers are issued. Grant decisions are made by the Trust Fund board.

Mrs. Evashevski said she spoke with two Trust Fund board members to determine why St. Ignace did not receive the funds. They spoke of "gray areas" in the final decision making process, including considering communities that have not been able to get funding in the past.

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), said Mrs. Evashevski, has committed \$25,000 to the Chief Wawatam Park project. The DEQ has agreed to hold the funds, knowing St. Ignace is going to reapply for the Trust Fund Development money.

In other business, the DDA will donate \$1,500 to support the arrival of the tall ship *Pride of Baltimore II* to St. Ignace for the Fish Feast July 26. The ship will be docked at the St. Ignace Marina and free deck tours will be offered to the commu-

nity during the day.

Representing St. Ignace Hospitality Growth, which has brought tall ships to town in the past, Dave Swope asked the DDA to help defray costs. The group has committed to bring the ship to the community for \$10,000. The Tourist Association, he said, has donated \$2,500 and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians has donated to a fireworks display to be held that night.

The ship will sail in Moran Bay and tickets will be sold for an evening sail during the fireworks.

DDA already contributes to the Fish Feast, said Mrs. Evashevski, and asked the board to consider putting a cap on the amount of money it contributes to the event. Discussion of funding support for the second year of the event is

planned for a future DDA meeting.

"I'd like to see the special events become self-supporting," said Mayor Paul Grondin. "In the beginning, they're going to need some help."

The ship is a memorial to the original *Pride of Baltimore*, an 1812-era clipper ship. Owned by the citizens of Maryland, the ship is used to promote Maryland trade and tourism and educates visitors about the maritime sciences.

St. Ignace Hospitality Growth is an organization that works to bring events to the area, including bringing the *Pride of Baltimore II* here over Labor Day 2007 and docking the tall ship *Roseway* in St. Ignace in 2005. Members of the group include David Swope, Jack Swope, Howard Cole, Mike Doud, Tim Harrington, Mark Sposito, David

Goldthrope, Robert Goldthrope, and Larry Belonga.

The DDA next meets January 11 at 8 a.m. in City Hall.

'His and Hers' Opening Day Bucks



Karissa Schlosser, 17, of Cedarville and Derrick Bouma, 18, of Drummond Island both bagged eight-point bucks on the opening day of the firearm deer season November 15, while hunting together from the same deer stand on Drummond Island. Miss Schlosser took her buck at 8:05 a.m., and it had a spread of 10.5 inches. It was her first hunting season. Hours after she shot her buck, Mr. Bouma followed with his deer at 3:45 p.m. His had a 14-inch spread. (Schlosser family photograph)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dredging, Locks Remedy Symptoms, But Don't Fix Problem

To the Editor:

Last month, Congress passed a large water projects bill. I was pleased to see that there are Great Lakes projects included in that legislation. I am, however, very disappointed to read what those projects are:

1. dredging projects, and
2. an additional lock at the Soo.

It seems to me that those projects react to the real problem facing the upper lakes – low water. If the water level in the upper Great Lakes continues to decline, commercial shipping will be further restricted, requiring more and more dredging to a point where it is no longer effective.

Much has been written about the work done by our neighbors in the Georgian Bay Association to find a cause of and solution to the low water problem. Their consultant, Baird & Associates, believes the problem is caused, in large part, by the deepening of the shipping channel leading into Lake St. Clair. This has caused and ever-accelerating flow out of Lake Huron. Baird also believes that by placing structures in the shipping channel, below the dept that will restrict shipping, this outward flow reduced to its natural rate.

The dredging and lock projects may, in the short term, benefit commercial shipping, but they do nothing for the hundreds of thousands of people using the thousands of miles of Michigan shoreline impacted by low water.

Just look at the Les Cheneaux area. Here marinas are in danger of not being able to launch and service boats, our bays are silting up and becoming week clogged, navigation is restricted, and the natural channels between islands are disappearing, reducing the healthy flow of water in and out of Les Cheneaux. Government Island and Big LaSalle Island, once separated by a channel, are now one island. The Lake Huron entrance to Bosley Channel that separates Big LaSalle from Little LaSalle islands is almost closed. The environmental, economic, and public health impacts of these changes are significant. This is only one small area along the thousands of miles of the Lake Michigan and Lake Huron shoreline.

I believe it would cost far less money to implement the Baird recommendations than to fund the projects in the recent Federal water projects legislation, and the result would address the problem, not remedy the symptoms.

Jack Edwards
Cedarville

Michigan Politics

By
George Weeks



Northern Representatives Agitate in '07, Seek More Clout in '08

Northern Michigan's three congressmen created a stir on Capitol Hill in 2007 and are positioned for influential roles early in 2008.

With Democratic takeover of the House, Representative Bart Stupak (D-Menominee) was an aggressive chairman of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee chaired by his powerful mentor, House Dean John Dingell (D-Dearborn).

Eight-term Stupak was an oversight point man on such national issues as energy prices and food safety. His subcommittee held 19 hearings this year, more than any of Dingell's other subcommittees.

He also was a leading voice on Great Lakes issues, and berated the Army Corps of Engineers, which he said has "back peddled, hemmed, hawed" on building a new lock at Sault Ste. Marie that was first authorized in 1986.

The omnibus budget signed by President George W. Bush last week included \$1,968,000 toward the lock, a figure that represents the amount that was in last year's budget but was not spent.

Stupak told me Friday that he is working with other Great Lakes congressmen to get \$50 million to \$100 million in the next budget toward the \$348 million cost of the lock.

"Food and drug safety will be front and center again. ...along with nuclear safety" next year, he said in a phone interview from his car as he and his wife, Laurie, drove from the Upper Peninsula to Detroit Metro Airport to pick up their son, Ken, who is practicing law in California's entertainment industry.

Stupak also revealed that he and Dingell are discussing having hearings on such "auto industry-related issues" as pollution and CAFE standards as part "of an assessment on how we meet the next challenges" following Bush's signing of the compromise energy bill.

He said the two lawmakers, among other things, want to "find out what's happened to all the money that was set aside three or four years ago for hydrogen research."

Although now in the minority, longtime Republican Representatives Dave Camp of Midland and Pete Hoekstra of Holland were prominent on front burner issues this year and are sure to be in 2008.

Nine-term Camp, third ranking Republican on the Ways and Means Committee and the top Republican on its Health Subcommittee (in defending administration positions, he periodically jostled with Stupak on health issues), has a good shot at being the top Republican on Ways and Means.

The current top Republican, Jim McCrery of Louisiana, is retiring. Camp is challenging No. 2 Wally Herger of California to be minority leader on the committee.

The selection is made by a 32-member steering committee of caucus leaders, including members of key congressional committees.

Camp, well-connected with leadership and respected in the caucus, is favored to win, according to some Washington pundits.

It shouldn't hurt with party pooh babs that Camp, at a recent caucus meeting at the Capitol Hill Club, said he was transferring \$400,000 from his campaign committee to the National Republican Congressional Committee.

According to aide Sage Eastman, Camp said: "Merry Christmas. ...My daddy always said it is better to give than receive." Herger, said Eastman, pledged \$250,000.

Eight-term Hoekstra, former chairman of the House Intelligence Committee and now its ranking Republican, has over the years been a Bush ally, which gives him all the more credibility in his current laudable quest. He led the charge among Republicans to have the House probe the destruction of CIA interrogation tapes.

According to the Associated Press, he said: "We want to hold the (intelligence) community accountable for what's happening with these tapes...."

"You've got a community that's incompetent. They are arrogant. And they are political."

Among them, Hoekstra, Camp and Stupak represent 56 of Michigan's 83 counties—Stupak 31 (including part of Bay County), Camp 14 (including parts of Saginaw and Shiawassee), and Hoekstra 11 (including parts of Allegan and Kent).

George Weeks retired last year after 22 years as political columnist for *The Detroit News*. His weekly *Michigan Politics* column is syndicated by *Superior Features*.

The St. Ignace News

and Les Cheneaux Islands Weekly Wave

359 Reagon Street, PO Box 277, Saint Ignace, MI 49781

Telephone (906) 643-9150 • Facsimile (906) 643-9122

Hessel Office: 138 Pickford Avenue (906) 484-2268

www.SaintIgnaceNews.com

USPS Periodical Publication Number - 462-380

ESTABLISHED 1878

Published each Thursday at Saint Ignace, Mackinac County, Michigan

Entered in Saint Ignace, Michigan Post Office as Periodical Mail Matter, Act of March 3, 1879

Periodical Postage Paid at Saint Ignace, MI • Additional Postage Paid at Gaylord, MI

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to St. Ignace News, PO Box 277, St. Ignace, MI 49781

Volume 128, Number 38 Thursday, December 27, 2007

Publisher/Editor

Wesley H. Maurer, Jr.

Associate Publisher

Mary R. Maurer

Publisher 1975-1995

Wesley H. Maurer, Sr. (1897-1995)

Editor

Ellen Paquin, news@saintignaceneews.com

Staff Writers

Amy Polk, amy@saintignaceneews.com

Ryan Schlehuter, ryan@saintignaceneews.com

Karen Gould, karen@saintignaceneews.com

Paul Gingras, paul@saintignaceneews.com

Advertising Department

Tammy Matson, David Moyalson

ads@saintignaceneews.com

Print Shop Manager

Sherry Cece

Circulation Manager

Wendy Colegrove



Subscriptions:

\$35 in Mackinac, Chippewa, Emmet, Luce, and Cheboygan counties.

\$42 elsewhere in the United States and military post offices.

\$30 for the Web edition at www.saintignaceneews.com

We take Visa, MasterCard, and Discover

The quotation under the flag of *The St. Ignace News* on Page 1 is from the 10 triads written by Dr. Fred Newton Scott, creator and teacher of the first continuous course in journalism in the United States at the University of Michigan in 1890. The 10 triads are chiseled on the parapet of the Detroit News Building at 615 Lafayette Boulevard, Detroit. They were headed "Ideals of the Press" or "The Newspaper in a Free Society," and serve as a reminder of what a free press means to us.

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Weddings with photographs are published without charge within 45 days of the ceremony. After 45 days, a photograph can be included for \$35.00.

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Contact:

The St. Ignace News

359 Reagon Street

PO Box 277

Saint Ignace, MI 49781

(906) 643-9150 (phone)

(906) 643-9122 (fax)

e-mail: news@stignaceneews.com