

Engine From Rail Ferry Chief Wawatam Would Be Highlight in Proposed Transportation Museum

*Continued from page 1

"They're looking at a gift to St. Ignace because this is where it belongs," said City Manager Eric Dodson, who attended the DDA meeting Friday, January 11. "It's pretty sad to see the Chief in its current state. Although it is being tugged around the Great Lakes, it is a barge. It's nothing [like] what it was before. This is sort of a move toward preservation of the memory of that ship that served us for so long."

The engine now is in eight to 10 pieces, and the DDA agreed to pay for the gas to transport it to St. Ignace on three flatbed trailers. The city will provide the trucks and drivers, said DDA Chairman Gene Elmer, and Purvis Marine has agreed to load the pieces onto the trucks. The city will look for a donation of a crane to unload the trucks once they arrive in town.

Once a permanent location has been established for the engine, Purvis Marine has agreed to provide a supervisor, at no charge to the city, to work with city crews to reassemble the machinery.

Problems are not expected when the three trucks pass through customs, said Mr. Elmer, since the engine was built and operated in this country.

The DDA would like to house the engine in a transportation museum now being planned for St.

Ignace. DDA Director Deb Evashevski is working with the Michigan Department of Transportation to seek transportation enhancement funds for the museum. The Mulcrone building on McCann Street that once housed the food pantry and now serves as a bus depot is being considered for the site.

The city will store the engine until then.

"The thought behind this is if we have a transportation museum, this would be a nice focal point with a whole display about the Chief," said Mr. Elmer.

The engine, said Mr. Dodson, would join Forrest "Frosty" Wyrick's 101-foot-long Erector Set model of the Mackinac Bridge as a main feature in the museum. Mackinac Bridge artifacts and state car ferry items are other displays being planned.

Progress continues at the Museum of Ojibwa Culture, with insulation work complete. The DDA agreed to seek bids to paint the interior and begin the application process for a loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Discussions on renovation projects on the 1837 structure are planned for future meetings.

"We want this building to be in good structural shape and viable in our downtown district for a long, long time," said Mrs. Evashevski.

"If we're going to make it that way, then we need to do it right."

The DDA, which received \$80,000 from the sale of property at 3 Glashaw Street to apply to the renovation work, also is seeking donations and looking at historic preservation grants, although they are difficult to get now, said Mrs. Evashevski. At Friday's meeting, the DDA agreed to apply for a maximum \$250,000, 30-year loan at about 4.38% interest, which would cost approximately \$15,000 annually.

Museum director Shirley Sorrels said she is getting renovation advice from historical architect Robb McKay, who works in the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office, including information on the proper siding to use on the building, if the board decides it must be replaced.

"The siding is in really rough shape," said Mrs. Evashevski.

Getting paint to stick to the wood siding has been a problem the city has been dealing with for years. Options, said Mrs. Sorrels, include repairing existing boards, scraping old paint from the building and repainting, or replacing the old pine siding with new. According to Mrs. Sorrels, the Historic Preservation office also would accept the installation of cement fiber siding, which looks like wood.

"We just have to be really careful what we put on the outside of the building," she said. "If we put something on the building that is not approved, we could be de-listed as a National Historic Landmark."

Additional work needed on the building includes replacing windows and exterior doors, upgrading the heating system, repairing the foundation, adding air conditioning and dehumidification, installing a new restroom, constructing a new protected main entry modeled after the one on the original structure, and repainting the interior.

The design of banners to hang from downtown lampposts this summer will be discussed at the DDA's February meeting. The board will consider banners that mark the 100th sailing of the Chicago-to-Mackinac Island yacht race, using a combination of different theme banners, or the old city banners.

The St. Ignace special events committee is expanding winter celebrations to include two weekends.

The pond hockey championship is set for February 22 through February 24 and now a softball tournament and a snowmobile adventure race will take place February 16 and February 17.

Outhouse Race Planners Seek Teams From Nearby Towns

*Continued from page 1

own outhouse race at Winterfest, and now every year, spectators "show up and laugh at us," Mr. Yoder said.

Organizers are hoping for teams from St. Ignace, Burt Lake, and other nearby towns this weekend. A team includes four runners and one "sitter." They compete for gold, silver, and bronze-painted toilet seats.

Mr. Yoder's team is racing three outhouses: "The Camo Commode," a camouflaged outhouse; "The Jailbird," an outhouse designed to look like a cross between a jail cell and a birdhouse, and another called "Toiletries in Motion."

"We will have a couple of outhouses available, if a team does not have an outhouse but wants to race," Mr. Yoder said. "All you need is a Winterfest button and a good sense of humor."

The outhouse event has been improved for 2008. This year, before the race, it will feature the Parade of Outhouses. The decorated buildings will be circled around the track, allowing teams to show off their designs, which have included flamingo and hunting-camp motifs in recent years.

Design and decoration awards will be given out before the timed slippery sprint, Ms. Edwards said. Unlike the past two races, racers will run toward the Shepler's entrance, rather than away, enabling spectators to get a better look at them when they cross the finish line.

Owing to the inherent difficulties of racing the buildings on ice and snow, outhouses frequently go off the track, Ms. Edwards said. The outhouses measure four square feet, by six feet tall.

"Half the fun is seeing where they go off, and how fast teams can get them back on again," she said.

As the outhouses slide, a bonfire and marshmallow roast will take place in view of the track.

Few of Winterfest's activities are weather dependent, Ms.

Snow bowling and other events are planned, including live music and a heated beer tent.

Lights on downtown trees will be back once the state prisoner work program is operating again.

Edwards noted, although snow sculpting has been canceled this year.

Activities begin Thursday. Most are free, with the purchase

"All you need is a Winterfest button and a good sense of humor."

- Greg Yoder
outhouse racer

of a \$2 Winterfest button. They can be purchased at the Mackinac City Chamber of Commerce winter office in Mackinaw Crossings, businesses in town, and at each event site. The buttons will be numbered, and participants with certain numbers can win prizes of \$2 to \$20. Winning numbers will be posted during the event at the Winterfest sound trailer, the Chamber office, the ice fishing contest, and the Pancake Chef Restaurant. Prizes must be claimed by Friday, January 25.

Thursday, indoor, open skating will take place at the Mackinaw City Recreation Center from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Friday, from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., Pancake Chef Restaurant will host a fish fry, at a cost of \$8 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and younger. Also on Friday, ice skating with music will take place at the Recreation Center

Reading Event Planned at Sault Saturday

Bayliss Public Library in Sault Ste. Marie will host a "Nick Adams Stories" read-a-thon Saturday, January 19, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A special guest reader will be State Representative Gary McDowell, along with members of the community, who will read stories aloud in the library's public meeting room. To sign up to be a reader at the free event, call (906)

The city expects its return by April. The program provided a labor force for municipal projects, including installing Christmas decorations, lawn care, painting sidewalk curbs, and maintaining ball fields.

from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday, conditions permitting, an ice fishing contest will take place at Paradise Lake from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The entry fee is \$15 with a Winterfest pin. Registration is at Paradise Lake Marina.

Free hot cocoa and coffee will be available at Pancake Chef from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and a poker walk will proceed throughout the village, also from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Registration for the poker walk is at The Candy Corner/Windjammer Gifts, where awards for the best poker hands will be given out at 1:35 p.m. Winners must be present to receive prizes.

From 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., a chili cook-off will be at the American Legion Club. Awards are at 12:45 p.m.

Sleigh or wagon rides will be offered from noon to 2:30 p.m. Boarding is at Marshall's Fudge.

From 1 p.m. to 1:50 p.m., outdoor games for all ages will take place next to the marina in Shepler's parking lot. Participants can take part in a frozen fish toss, push broom hockey, and frozen chicken bowling.

The Parade of Outhouses, awards, and outhouse races will be from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Mancino's Euchre Tournament is from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Mancino's Grinders and Pizza. The cost is \$5 with a Winterfest pin. Registration is from 11 a.m. until noon.

632-9331.

The program will begin Bayliss Library's "Great Michigan Read" activities, in which Ernest Hemingway's Nick Adams Stories are being celebrated this year in a statewide program. The Great Michigan Read is presented by the Michigan Humanities Council, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Brooke Garries, Desiree Nordstrand To Receive Scholarships



LaSalle High School seniors Brooke Garries (left) and Desiree Nordstrand each received a \$10,000 gift for their first year of college from St. Ignace resident Becky Calcaterra (center) December 14. Miss Garries will study natural science at Kalamazoo Community College. Miss Nordstrand, Mrs. Calcaterra's niece, has yet to choose a college, but would like to teach art. Mrs. Calcaterra said she was prompted to give the scholarships after the two girls were cut from the St. Ignace volleyball team this year.

Community Calendar

*Continued from page 4

Hall on M-28, 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Brimley

•Tuesdays: **Alcoholics Anonymous Lakeshore Group Meetings**, 7:30 p.m., Superior Township Hall, 7049 South M-221.

•Thursdays: **Alcoholics Anonymous Lakeshore Group Meetings**, 8 p.m., Superior Township Hall, 7049 South M-221. Open speaker the last Thursday of each month.

Sault Ste. Marie

•Wednesday, January 16: **American Red Cross Blood Drive**, noon to 5:45 p.m., Faith Lutheran Church.

•Saturday, January 19: "**Nick Adams Stories**" Read-a-thon, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Bayliss Public Library.

•Friday, January 25: **Grandparents Raising Kids Playgroup**, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., McDonalds Restaurant. Kids meals are free.

•Monday, February 11: **2008 Better Kid Care Training**, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Department of Human Services (FIA). Continues every second Monday of the

month. For more information or to register, call MSU Extension at (906) 635-6368.

•Sundays: **Alcoholics Anonymous Shewadin Group Meetings**, noon, Shewadin Building, 2154 Shunk Road.

•Mondays and Tuesdays: **Alcoholics Anonymous Central Group Meetings**, 7:30 p.m., Community of Christ Church, Room 101.

•Wednesdays: **Preschool Story Time**, 10 a.m., for children ages three to five, Bayliss Public Library.

•Thursdays: **Preschool Story Time**, 1 p.m., for children ages three to five, Bayliss Public Library.

•Saturdays: **Alcoholics Anonymous Lock City Group Meetings**, 7 p.m., Presbyterian Church, 555 Bingham Avenue.

Engadine

•Monday, January 21: **Engadine Library Book Group**, 7 p.m., at the library. This month's book, "Catering to Nobody".

Naubinway

•Friday, February 15 and Saturday, February 16: **Top of the**

Lake Antique and Vintage Snowmobile Show and Ride, all day, US -2 in Naubinway.

Curtis

•Saturday, January 26: **Curtis Community Arts Council Coffee House Performance**, Park Center Building.

Mackinaw City

•Thursday, January 17 through Saturday, January 19: **Winterfest**, ice skating, ice fishing contest, sleigh rides, outdoor games, outhouse races. Send e-mail to info@mackinawchamber.com, or call (231) 436-5574 or (888) 455-8100 for schedule and information.

•Friday, January 18: **Fish Fry Benefit for Memorial Day**

Parade, 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Pancake Chef Restaurant. All-you-can-eat buffet for \$8 adults, \$5 children.

•Saturday, January 19: **Audie's Scholarship Ball**, 8 p.m., Audie's Restaurant. Proceeds benefit local scholarship funds.

•Wednesday, January 30: "**The Mackinaw Area and the Icebreaker Mackinaw Maritime Museum: The next 62 years**", 7 p.m., Mackinaw Area Public Library.

Cheboygan

•Friday, January 25: **American Red Cross Blood Drive**, 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., Cheboygan Memorial Health Center.

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BREVORT - Well maintained 26 unit motel w/pool has spectacular view of Lake Michigan & has been a successful business for years. (07-392) **\$410,000**

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