

19 Graduates in Engadine's Class of 2008 Advised: 'Don't Be Afraid of Change'

By Paul Gingras

"Never settle for less than you deserve, or sell yourself short. Always remember who you truly are and where you came from," said salutatorian Jamie Maison of Engadine High School, looking over a crowd of family, friends, and community members who assembled at the school auditorium Friday, June 6, to see off the 19-member Class of 2008.

The group, to disperse throughout Michigan in pursuit of college degrees and skilled trades, spoke of leaving behind their rural high school in the mid-Upper Peninsula, and while graduates said they have eagerly awaited the chance to explore new places, meet new people, and take on new challenges, senior John Troyer summed up the general sentiment of his classmates.

Engadine, he said, will always be a place full of memories.

In teal and blue caps and gowns, the seniors took the stage, accepted their diplomas, and shook the hands of School Board President Tracy Germain and Superintendent Stu Hobbs. Several gave a final hug to Mr. Hobbs.

The seniors heard the advice of keynote speaker Donald Butkovich, a district employee of 29 years who has developed a rapport with students, and who cited key words for them to ponder: confidence, determination, direction, challenge, attitude, regress, and respect.

He encouraged the graduates to take pride in themselves and to "let that confidence flow out into the world." From confidence comes determination, and determination leads to success, he said. Mr. Butkovich focused on the need to find direction in life, and the equally important ability to change direction, if necessary.



The Engadine High School Class of 2008 poses just before their graduation ceremony in the school auditorium Friday, June 6. Pictured (bottom row, from left) are Dennis Borowski, Carrie Sadler, Tristina Browning, Katelyn Buckholz; (second row) Jamie Maison, Tara Burke, Samantha Dunne, LeAnn Gribbell; (third row) Michael Mast, Michael Bennett, Tiajanna Sherbrook (partly hidden), Shauni Rutledge, Cody Mischel; (fourth row) Christopher Keller, Joel VanHise, Nathan Butkovich, John Troyer, Joseph Patrow, and Andrew Reed.

"Have a plan, look ahead, and have a vision of what you want or need to do to be successful," he said, however, "it is all right to change plans along the way; most of you

will. Do not be afraid of change...and don't look back."

A positive attitude, critical to maintaining versatility and facing challenges, "is the most important

element in your life," he added.

Mr. Butkovich acknowledged that there will be times when the seniors will feel they have regressed, hit road blocks, and faced unfairness.

"Look ahead, regroup, and continue to pursue your dreams," he said.

Turn to page 12: Engadine



Just before commencement, secretary Lesa Baker of Engadine Consolidated Schools places green and gold honor cords on graduate John Troyer Friday, June 6. The cords signify his achievement of highest academic honors.

Yellow Courtesy Bikes Are Ready To Roll in St. Ignace

By Karen Gould

By the end of the month, St. Ignace visitors and residents will be able to check out a bicycle free of charge to ride around town. Already in use in Marquette, Menominee, and other cities across the county, the yellow bicycle program will begin in St. Ignace by the end of the month with 13 donated bicycles.

St. Ignace Area Hope has agreed to sponsor the bicycle program, and will have the bicycles available at its Hope Chest resale store on Ferry Lane. Arrangements can be made with the volunteer on duty.

"A lot of seasonal people come up here and shop," said Connie Litzner of St. Ignace Area Hope, "so we thought this would be a good drop off and pick up point."

The program is for anyone who needs transportation, said Mary Pemble-Swidorski of the Michigan State University Extension office, who spearheaded the project. Those who are interested in getting physical activity, she said, but

don't own a bicycle, also can sign them out.

"St. Ignace also has so many seasonal workers, this will be a good opportunity for them," she said.

By providing free transportation, the two women agree, the courtesy bicycles will help lessen the financial burden for residents and seasonal workers who now pay for transportation services to take them to shops, run errands, and make local appointments.

"We see a lot of people here who don't have transportation," said Mrs. Litzner. "This program will help save them money."

To use a bicycle, the rider must sign a waiver and take responsibility for his or her own safety. Each bicycle has a lock and riders will be given a key, which is attached to a long yellow cord. The bicycles have baskets large enough to hold a few bags of groceries or other items.

The length of time that a person may use a bicycle has not been

Turn to page 9: Bikes



Already painted, this yellow bicycle awaits a basket and a "Bike Taxi" identification plate Wednesday, June 4. Mary Pemble-Swidorski of the Michigan State University Extension office is among those working to put the bicycle loan program in place.

Cullen Is New City Officer

By Karen Gould

New St. Ignace City police officer Richard Cullen can be found most mornings working out in the fitness center at Little Bear East Arena. Hired last month to replace Ryan Diehl, who resigned from the force to work in the Middle East, Mr. Cullen, who works from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m., says fitness is his hobby.

Formerly an officer for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, he began working at the city police department in May, making the change to the police force to take advantage of its retirement program, which is not offered by the tribe.

A former member of the U.S. Coast Guard, he came to St. Ignace in 1997, when he was stationed on the *Biscayne Bay*. It was then he met his future wife, Mary Paquin, who is the kindergarten teacher at Gros Cap School.

The couple has three daughters, Liberty, who will be three in November, and twins Addison and Cadence, who turned one year old June 7.

One week before accepting the St. Ignace job, he was offered a position in his hometown of Greensburg, Pennsylvania. He

was excited at the prospect of returning home, although the decision to stay here was based on quality of life the area can provide for his family.

"It will be a better life for our kids," he said, adding that it would be nice to be close to stores and cultural activities, although his hometown has grown more than when he was there. His high school graduating class, he said as an example, had about 500 students.

"The way they are going to be brought up was a major reason for staying here," he said. "It's just a better lifestyle all the way around."

Police work, he said, interested him at an early age. His mother was a police dispatcher and many his parents' friends were on the police force.

"I was always around it," he said. "That's how I learned, growing up and watching them."

The 2001 Northern Michigan University Police Academy graduate prefers being outside to working at a desk, likes the variety of police work, and favors patrolling streets at night.

He likes being available to help residents as he covers the night



The newest officer with the City of St. Ignace, Richard Cullen heads out on patrol Tuesday, June 3.

shift. No matter what law enforcement agency one works for, he said, night calls often involve drunk driving, fights, trespassing, and domestic disputes.

"I like the fact that at night," he said, "there is nobody to call but the police. You can't call your neighbor or your friend to help

you out or to rely on. There's only one number you call, so that's a good feeling, knowing we're it."

He joins Police Chief Tim Matelski, Sergeant Mark Wilk, officers Merlin Doran, Tom Tarnutzer, Allen Mitchell, meter officer Nick Pavloski, and secretary Lori Strich.

Car Show Line-up Begins With Antiques on the Bay June 21

Convertibles Featured at St. Ignace Marina

Convertibles will be featured at the 12th annual Antiques on the Bay car show Friday, June 20, and Saturday, June 21, in St. Ignace. The show is for all-original vehicles 1983 and older.

Admission is free.

The Antiques on the Bay weekend begins with a Mackinac Bridge rally Friday at 4:30 p.m. The rally sets out from the Welcome Center on South Nicolet Street in Mackinaw City and ends at Best Western Harbour Point in St. Ignace. Afterward, drivers will take a turn past the Long Term Care facility at Mackinac Straits

Hospital, enabling residents there to see the vehicles.

Saturday, vehicles and automotive art will be displayed from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., in the area stretching at the St. Ignace Marina. An awards dinner for participants will be at LaSalle Middle School from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Registration is at the St. Ignace Chamber of Commerce Friday, and at the Brewbaker trailer at the marina Saturday.

It is the first in Nostalgia Production's summer line-up of automotive events. The second will be the 33rd annual St. Ignace

Car Show Thursday, June 26, through Saturday, June 28.

In September, the first Owosso Tractor Parts and Equipment Parade and Display will coincide with the 13th Annual Richard

Crane Memorial Truck Show in St. Ignace.

Antiques on the Bay is sponsored by Mackinac Sales, the St. Ignace Visitors Bureau, Kewadin Casinos, and Hagerty Insurance.

Car Show, St. Ignace Featured on TV

The St. Ignace Car Show was featured on the television program "My Classic Car" Sunday, June 8, on the Speed Channel. The program was filmed last year.

St. Ignace will be featured in the August issue of *Lakeland Boating* magazine. The article is called "Ports O' Call" and will be on newsstands in mid-July.

New Poster Will Promote Straits Area

An aerial photograph of the Straits of Mackinac showing ferries from each of the three Mackinac Island boat lines crossing Moran Bay together toward the Island will be made into a poster promoting the area in all Michigan Welcome Centers, said Lynne Piippo, executive director of the St. Ignace Visitors Bureau.

The photograph, suggested to the St. Ignace Special Events Committee by Beth Beaudoin, was taken May 20.

"The weather cooperated beautifully with sunshine, blue skies, and water," said Mrs. Piippo. "All three ferry companies have only rarely been featured in a pre-

planned group photo shoot. The ferries on water photo will be the focal point of the summer season poster, and will also be used in other print materials in the future."

The posters will feature St. Ignace special events, such as the annual Car Show and the Labor Day Bridge Walk. A winter poster will also be produced, using a photograph of the Moran Bay Pond Hockey tournament.

Paul Fullerton piloted the airplane as a donation to the project. Dave Kunze was the photographer, and other organizers of the project were Chris Shepler, Tom Pfeiffelmann, and Bob Brown, of the boat lines.

Book Sale Will Aid Hospital Auxiliary

A book sale will benefit the Mackinac Straits Hospital auxiliary Thursday, June 12, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Friday, June 13,

from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Mackinac Straits Long Term Care Education Room. The sale will include new books and gift items.

Shoreline Bike Tour Is This Weekend

The 16th annual Big Mac Shoreline Spring Scenic Bike Tour will draw cyclists to Mackinaw City Saturday, June 14, and Sunday, June 15.

Cyclists may choose 25-, 50-, 75-, or 100-mile bike tours along the shores of Lake Michigan. The four routes serve novice cyclists, family groups, and tenured 100-mile cyclists, in an event sponsored by the Mackinaw City Chamber of Commerce. A group of volunteers will circle the route to ensure rider safety. Rest areas will be clearly marked.

The Saturday tour begins and

ends at Mackinaw City High School. Participants will depart between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m., depending on the route taken. Registration costs \$23, which includes the tour and a hot dog roast from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Highlighting the tour is a ride over the Mackinac Bridge, beginning at 6:30 a.m. Sunday morning. The fee is \$12. The bridge ride is open to the first 400 riders who participate in Saturday's tour. Some restrictions apply.

For more information, call (888) 455-8100, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Red Hat Society Convention Canceled

The Red Hat Society Convention scheduled for St. Ignace June 6 through June 8 has been canceled owing to a decrease in advance registrations, said Rosalie Robinson of the Jewels of the Straits Red Hat Society, organizers

of the annual event.

The convention drew Red Hat Society groups from around the state to St. Ignace in 2005, 2006, and 2007. The local chapter has not yet determined if it will try to offer the event again in the future.