

# Great Lakes Boat Building School To Add Second Class; May Sell Finished Work

Cedarville Program Growing

By Jonathan Eppley

The Great Lakes Boat Building School in Cedarville will add a second, nine-month, full-time program next fall that will focus on building custom interiors for larger boats. It will run concurrently with the regular program to be offered in the fall, which will be in its third year then.

Students in the new course will learn advanced interior joinery, engine installation, water system and electrical system skills, which will make the students more marketable in the job market after graduation, said school director Dave Lesh.

He said the second course will "give them that extra level of experience," which can be roughly compared to a second year of community college, and he expects about half of the eight current students to enroll.

The school's 14-member board of trustees voted unanimously to approve the program at a meeting Wednesday, January 27.

Students in the second session will also build a boat designed specifically for the school by Van Dam Custom Boats, said Mr. Lesh.



The boat will be a 26.5-foot-long, wood composite motor boat capable of doing about 45 miles per hour. The Boyne City-based boat builder is recognized for its quality and craftsmanship, Mr. Lesh said.

With the addition of the course, the "student union" will likely be converted into a second classroom. It is a room about twice the size of

the school's regular classroom and is used as a library and study area, as well as a place for students to gather during free time to play billiards and watch movies.

Occasionally, students will gather after class to "hang out, watch movies, and eat pizza," Mr. Lesh said. "It's really important they have a place where they can hang out and

bond."

A wall will likely be built to divide the room in half to create the additional classroom, and the billiards table will have to find a new home.

At left: Great Lakes Boat Building School students (from left) Paul Aghababian, Keith Ransom, and Ryan Kasik practice cutting "rabbet" grooves. If approved, legislation in the Michigan legislature will allow the school to sell student projects to benefit the school.

liards table will have to find a new home.

The library and classroom are available to students until 10 p.m., and the workshop area is available until 8 p.m. as long as there are at least two people in the room.

Also on the horizon for the school, Mr. Lesh is hoping a bill will pass in the Michigan Senate this winter to allow the school to sell boats made by students.

House Bill 5995, which passed in the House of Representatives in September, would allow trade schools in Michigan to sell goods and services produced by students. Money made through sales of stu-

dent projects would only be able to be used to support the school, as long as sales do not exceed 15% of the school's annual income, according to the bill as it is currently worded. The bill would also require trade schools to apply for a license each year to sell student projects and services.

"We're really excited about the opportunity to be able to sell boats. We're going to continue to give them away, too," Mr. Lesh said. "We will sell certain boats, but we feel we've been really successful giving them away. Not only do we get good press from it, but it's a good thing to do."

He said if the bill is enacted, the school will try to sell larger boats at a fair market value while continuing to donate smaller boats for organizational fundraisers.

Boats donated last year to Cedar Post Food Pantry, Islands Wildlife Association, and a nonprofit cancer

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## Ingalls Gets State Backing To Share Coaching

Requests Rules Change

By Karen Gould

Within the last two months, St. Ignace Saints coach Dorene Ingalls has twice been forced to give up her head coaching status at girls varsity basketball games. Officials and one coach said she was in violation of game rules when she asked her husband, Doug, to stand in the coach's box while she coached from the bench.

National Federation of State High School Basketball Rules only allow a head coach to stand in the box, but Mrs. Ingalls uses a wheelchair, and a wheelchair in the coach's box can get in the way of players and referees.

"Your team shouldn't be held at a disadvantage because you can't walk," said Mrs. Ingalls. "All we want is to have the same advantage as the other team. We don't want to start the game with a disadvantage."

The coach's box is an area marked by a tape that designates where a coach can stand and move during the game, directing the team, making plays, and calling for timeouts.

Mrs. Ingalls' wheelchair does not fit in the coach's box, and when she



LaSalle girls basketball head coach Dorene Ingalls concentrates as players execute a play during practice Friday, January 16. Kristen Olsen (left, back) and Chelsea Swope await their turn.

has tried to use it there, mishaps have occurred. Referees have tripped on the chair (several even fell into her lap) and players have come close to falling over her and the chair while trying to save a ball. "It's very dangerous," she said of

using the wheelchair in the box. "When you're standing, you can move out of the way."

Doug Ingalls resigned his position as boys varsity coach last year to help his wife as a co-coach this

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## New Globes Will Light Island City Streets

By Ryan Schlehner

Seventy new light globes will replace old downtown streetlights on Mackinac Island, and incandescent lights will be used instead of compact fluorescent or light emitting diode (LED) lights, which were being evaluated.

The Mackinac Island City Council, at its meeting Wednesday, January 28, decided to purchase 75 new globes and keep five of them as spares. The city opted for incandescent lights after it reviewed the newer technology, which was thought to be more cost and energy efficient. But an LED light on the boardwalk was not thought to be attractive and two of the five compact fluorescent lights being evaluated on Main Street are no longer working. The city thinks the lights

may not work well in cold weather, but isn't sure.

Each of the new globes costs \$122, and the total price, including shipping, will be \$11,000, which will be paid from the city's general fund, said Mayor Margaret Doud.

The city's old globes are not replaceable and it can no longer find lamp poles similar to the ones it is using.

"We are desperate to do something right now because we have no supply of globes left," said Kelly Bean, Mayor Doud's assistant.

The globes will reflect the light down to the street, but not into the sky, reducing light pollution, and once new posts are selected, they can be manufactured to fit the globes, Ms. Bean said.

"What we do now can be contin-

ued into the future," she noted.

The design of the new globes is the same design as those the city purchased in 2006.

The city will replace the worst-looking globes on Market Street and along the boardwalk with the best-looking globes retrieved from the downtown area and will keep some old globes as reserves, said Ms. Bean.

Incandescent lights reflected toward the street will provide good lighting, said Councilman Dan Wightman, an employee of Edison Sault Electric Company.

"The visual impact of these globes and reflecting devices will really change the look of the downtown area," he said. "With those reflectors, evenings on the streets are going to look a lot better."

## Project Will Aid Fish Habitat at Brevort Lake

Sportsmen, Logger, Forest Service Join Forces

By Jonathan Eppley

A three-way stewardship contract between the Straits Area Sportsmen's Club, Hiawatha National Forest, and Nelson Logging will double the number of fish cribs in Brevort Lake by 2013.

The fish cribs are eight-foot-square, five-foot-tall, log cabin-like structures designed to provide shelter from predators for small fish like crayfish and minnows. For additional coverage, old Christmas trees are inserted into the middle of each crib.

Cribs are necessary for shelter because most of Brevort Lake has a sand base.

Under the stewardship contract, penned in August 2008, Russ Nelson's logging company buys the timber for the cribs from the Hiawatha, then delivers it to the sportsmen's club free of charge. For this service, the logging company will receive a credit for 10 cords of wood (a volume of 128 cubic feet) a year from the Hiawatha for the next five years.

"We trade the value of the timber for some desired stewardship work. It can be a habitat, it can be the fish-

ery habitat, it can be restoration activity, anything that you can think of that can be a stewardship activity," said Martha Sjogren of the U.S. Forest Service. "The sportsmen's club has been doing it for a long time and the stewardship contract allows us to have the opportunity to provide the wood."

The sportsmen's club will move the logs onto the ice on the eastern part of Brevort Lake to construct about 20 cribs in mid-February. Each crib will be assembled on the ice using logs, wire, and concrete blocks, then strategically positioned where there is a need for one on the lake bottom below.

"They try to jockey to get them in the right place, and then they provide a habitat down there for smaller fish to hide in," Ms. Sjogren said.

Holes will be drilled into the ice around the cribs, which will be positioned about 25 feet apart, to expedite the melting process this spring. The cribs will eventually sink about 18 feet to the bottom.

Sportsmen's club president Louie Colegrove said 104 cribs are located in three different areas of the

lake; off the western and eastern shores, as well as in the middle of the lake.

The water preserves the wooden cribs, which last about 25 years.

"They last for a long time," he said. "Once they get underwater like that, the wood just sits there."

The Straits Area Sportsmen's Club has been putting cribs on the lake bottom for more than 25 years, he said. With the stewardship, the current number of cribs will be doubled over the next five winters.

"The forest service really helps out. Without all of their help we probably wouldn't be able to do this," he said.

"It's kind of a win-win situation," that really benefits the fish and improves fishing for fisherman on Brevort Lake, said Hiawatha National Forest District Ranger Steve Christiansen.

Snowmobilers are advised to use caution when riding in the area and be aware of the building materials hauled onto the ice over the coming weeks.

"They're a pretty good-sized structure, you wouldn't want to tangle with one," Mr. Colegrove said as a precaution to snowmobilers.



Straits Area Sportsmen's Club President Louie Colegrove (from left), club member Russ Nelson, U.S. Forest Service Deputy District Ranger Jim Ozenberger, club members Dick Weber, Jimmie Miller, Bill Kemeny, and U.S. Forest Service District Ranger Steve Christiansen stand next to 10 cords of wood to be turned into fish cribs at Brevort Lake in February.



Dorene Ingalls (right, front) coaches from the floor during after-school practice, offering technical pointers to her team. Players pictured (from left) are Amanda Coveyou, Kristen Olsen, Samantha Radecki, Mallory LaLonde, Kayla Gustin, and Grace Wheeler.

## St. Ignace To Establish New Marketing Theme

### \$54,000 Raised To Promote 'Festivals and Fireworks'

By Karen Gould

A flurry of Saturday activities will be one more reason families will want to visit St. Ignace this summer, say Fireworks Committee members. The group has been meeting since fall and in less than four months has raised approximately \$54,000, more than 50% of its goal, to host fireworks displays in the city. Money has been raised at two evening wine and cheese receptions and by directly contacting potential donors.

Members have set a aggressive budget of \$100,000, which they say is needed to cover the cost to market the city as a community of Festivals and Fireworks, and to pay for \$50,000 in skyrockets. Fireworks will be offered for 10 Saturdays, starting July 11 and finishing September 5, Labor Day weekend. The plan is not without opposition.

Concerns have ranged from the program's cost to a worry that the loud booms will stress pets. Residents questioned the expense, as they see other community needs, including crumbling city streets that are in need of repair. Pet owners also

have said the noise from fireworks sends their animals scrambling under beds and covering in room corners.

The committee is addressing those concerns, said Chair Chris Shepler, and would like to talk with those who continue to oppose the project. The enthusiasm of the community is important to the committee and the success of the project, he said.

An agreement already is in place with Wolverine Fireworks Display of Kawkawlin to reduce the number of booms in each program and the noise they emit. There will be noise during the 17-minute weekly program, he said, although it will not be as loud or as often as experienced in traditional fireworks displays.

Money for the fireworks and marketing project is being donated by area residents and businesses.

The St. Ignace Downtown Development Authority is contributing \$5,000, the city is contributing \$2,500, and the St. Ignace Visitors

Bureau is committing \$20,000 of its marketing budget. The Chamber of Commerce is contributing in-kind labor. The committee also is seeking corporate support.

The state is being challenged economically, said Mr. Shepler, as it ranks dead-last in hotel occupancy across the country, and it is tied with Rhode Island for the highest unemployment rate in the county.

"We have to do something," said Mr. Shepler. "If we don't do something and stay neutral, than things are going to be really ugly. This is our quest to do something about it."

He continued, "To have fireworks going off in your community, that's change, and change is hard."

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