

Pickford Is Two-thirds Closer to Community Library, Organizers Say

By Josh Perttunen

In addressing Pickford's need for a library, it isn't difficult finding a group of people who are on the same page. The seven-member Friends of the Pickford Community Library board, along with the Bayliss Public Library director, can recite reasons a library is needed in the community, key among them being to provide it with a wide array of information.

"With the economy going down, you hear all kinds of reports of library usage going up," said Melanie Greenfield, president of the board, detailing how integral access to information in books, reference desk assistance, and the Internet has become.

Member Sheila Bergdoll, who had been a librarian for three years in Indiana, echoed this sentiment.

"A lot of people need to get online just to do anything," Mrs. Bergdoll said. "Business information, access to services, news, and other information are all online. Even getting help with unemployment and Social Security is done on the computer."

The younger crowd is also included in the group's goals. According to the group's president, the ideal library would be a place that offers summer programming and activities for children.

The volunteers envision the library functioning as a community center, where everyone feels at home.

"Every community needs a 'third place' where citizens can go to gather, organize, and feel comfortable," Mrs. Greenfield said.



The Friends of the Pickford Library board includes (back, from left) Pat Hunter, Bob Hunter, Sheila Bergdoll, Shelby Hagen; (front) Jackie Savoie, Justin Dickinson, and chairperson Melanie Greenfield. Missing from the photograph are board members Cindy Smith and Monica Kelley. (Photograph by Paul Boucher of Boucher Photography)

"We currently have the churches and the school, but, for residents who don't attend the church or have kids in the school, they may not feel comfortable in these environments. Everybody in the community has a feeling of ownership with a public library."

In keeping with the goal of the institution becoming a community hub, the board has selected the eastern half of the Amish

Heirlooms building (formerly the Watson's Shoe Store location) as the site for their interim library.

"An engineer came through and gave suggestions about which buildings would be suitable," Mrs. Greenfield said. "This site was chosen because it is structurally sound and can support the weight of the books. It has good parking and it offers the opportunity to expand. We don't have a site for a

permanent library picked out yet, but this site could very well expand into that."

The library would function as a satellite of Bayliss Public Library in Sault Ste. Marie, becoming the sixth branch of the larger institution.

"The Pickford community came to us and said, 'We would really like a library here, what do we do?'" said Bayliss Director Ken Miller.

Mr. Miller offered advice on how to create the friends group and raise the necessary funds for an interim library, placing Pickford on a path similar to the one Cedarville navigated in founding its library. The consensus was that they should target enough funds to support an interim library for three years.

As a satellite, the fledgling institution will receive staff and support from Bayliss as soon as that

total, \$115,000, is raised. This assistance will likely include a clerk or library manager who comes in 20 hours a week and works alongside library volunteers.

Fundraising efforts began in earnest in March 2008.

Of the \$115,000 required to operate the interim library for three years, nearly \$25,000 will come from penal fines, distributed to each township on a per capita basis for library services. Since Pickford doesn't have a library, these funds have been directed to the Bayliss Public Library, the closest institution that provides Pickford with library services. Its main facility is in Sault Ste. Marie. Once the interim library is established, these funds will be funneled into the Pickford library.

The project will get an additional \$10,000 from the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, while approximately \$17,500 has been contributed or pledged by local businesses, the board, and community members. The board is also expected to raise \$18,000 during the three-year operation of the interim library.

These primary sources, along with other anticipated and already-received funds, mean the group needs to raise \$42,500 more to reach its goal. It is hoping to attain this total by June or July. Once the Pickford library is an up-and-running institution, the group hopes to place construction of a new library building or expansion of the interim library on a future ballot.

To have a library of the caliber the volunteers are aiming for, the requirements go far beyond acquiring funds, Mr. Miller said.

"You can take a bunch of books and plop them in a room and call it a library and it could still be dead," he said. "You need a living library. That is a place with safe Internet access, a dedicated staff, community activities, a connection to local authors, and updated recommended reading selections. You can make it into something that's larger than the

whole and more than just a pile of books."

From what he sees, this group is well on its way to establishing such a place.

"If a community wants a library, they'll have it," Mr. Miller said. "You need a group championing the cause and Pickford has that. They're doing an excellent job raising funds."

Part of this success is the broad appeal of the project and the cross-the-board support of the community, said board members.

"We're passionate about people having a place to go," Mrs. Greenfield said. "This would be an anchor of the community."

Mrs. Bergdoll agreed, as understanding the benefits of a library runs in her family.

Her grandmother, Virge Eveleigh, a school teacher at the Leach School, had an informal library run out of her Pickford home in the 1930s. To her knowledge, it's the only library, aside from a school library, that's existed in the community.

"My mother said she remembered ladies coming and going, checking books in and out," Mrs. Bergdoll said. "Being a teacher, my grandmother understood the importance of a library."

Eventually, the book collection was moved to the Pickford Presbyterian Church.

All members of the library's friends group agree that access to information is a timeless need which will only become more critical.

"Everybody recognizes how great a library would be," Mrs. Bergdoll said. "Everybody reads something, whether it's a book, newspaper, magazine, or computer screen."

The board meets every third Thursday of the month. For more information about the time and location of upcoming meetings or the group's fundraising efforts, contact Melanie Greenfield at 647-2556, Jackie Savoie at 647-6784, or Sheila Bergdoll 647-8500.

Moran Bay To Host Ice Chip Golf Saturday

By Mark Tower

St. Ignace's Lake Huron shoreline will soon be transformed into a unique golf course in preparation for the annual Ice Chip tournament Saturday, March 6, in which golfers take to the ice to play a round of their favorite sport.

Now in its 16th year, the tournament began over a winter conversation among four men about who was the best golfer. They decided the snow and ice should not stop them from finding out, built a course on the bay, and the golf scramble was born.

Setting up the course for Saturday's tournament will be Mark Sposito, Andy Brown, Ralph Colegrove, and JoJo Visnaw. Golfers will tee off near the Mackinac Grille restaurant onto the icy lake, then play a nine-hole course leading them south along the Lake Huron shoreline. This year's course is expected to be very good, since cold weather and not much snow should keep the ice much dryer than last year, when heavy snow and slush created an added challenge.

After a break for lunch, golfers will return to the course to re-play the nine holes, making an 18-hole tournament with prizes for winners

of each flight.

A sled design contest will pit creative designers against each other to see who can build the best golf sled. This year, organizers ask that golfers use a basic sled to carry their clubs around the course and keep contest sleds in a judging area for display during the day. Non-golfers are welcome to submit a designed sled, and prizes will be awarded for the best designs.

"We would like to have everybody be able to come take a look at them," Mr. Sposito said of displaying the creative sleds this year. "People have really got a kick out of them in the past. Some of them are really interesting."

Golfers compete in teams of two, and there is a \$30 per-person registration fee to participate in the tournament. A soup and salad bar and hot dog and brat lunch and dinner at Mackinac Grille are included in the registration fee for golfers. Sled designers are asked to register their sled, but no fee is required to compete.

The golf scramble registration also includes a free coupon for Kewadin Casinos and a raffle sponsored by several local businesses.

For more information or to register for the golf scramble, contact the

Mackinac Grille at 643-7482 or the St. Ignace Chamber of Commerce at 643-8717. Registration is limited and on a first-come, first-served basis. Thirty-three teams competed in 2009's tournament.

Changes to this year's event will be the creation of an exclusively par-three-hole course, and the introduction of a shotgun start, allowing all golfers to start from different spots on the course. Golfers may tee their balls up anywhere on the course and can move the ball out of standing water without a penalty. Teams are placed in flights based on their score on the first nine holes, and teams are automatically moved up one flight if they improve their score by seven or more strokes on the second nine. Players may contact the Mackinac Grille Friday to confirm tee-times, which are likely to begin at about 9 a.m.

"It is primarily a local event, though we usually get a few teams of visitors," Mr. Sposito said. "It's just kind of the end of the winter season, pretty relaxing and not very serious. It's usually a pretty fun day."

Golfers are advised to bring many brightly colored balls, only a few clubs, warm clothing, and winter boots with good grip.

U.P. Pond Hockey Results

The following results are from the U.P. Pond Hockey Tournament in St. Ignace Friday, February 19, through Sunday, February 21. Some tournament results that were available from organizers earlier were published in *The St. Ignace News* February 25 issue.

Marie beat The Oxford Tap from Oxford, Michigan, 28-17.

21 & Over Silver:

Bear Cove Inn from Alpena beat Bourdowshockeyshop.com from Bay City 28-16.

21 & Over Bronze:

Team 57 from Wheaton, Illinois beat the Port Huron Lions from Port Huron 30-12.

21 & Over Copper:

Livings Legends from Novi beat the Motor City Mugs from Dexter 1-0.

21 & Over Tin:

Colleen's Irish Pub from Holt beat O'Connors from Sault Ste. Marie 19-9.

21 & Over Galvanized:

Jason's Berrys from Decatur beat Big E's from Lowell 17-15.

50 & Over Division:

In the February 25 edition of *The St. Ignace News*, it was reported that the Michigan Sting from Southfield beat 4 Old Guys and a Puck from Traverse City. The Michigan Sting actually beat TC West from Traverse City 18-11.

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