

THE EAGLE SPEAKS

CHIPPEWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 2017



www.chippewacountywihistoricalsociety.org

“OLD ABE”

Inside this Issue:

Calendar	4
Capital Campaign Update.....	3
Chippewa Herald donation	5
Donations.....	7
Featured Volunteer	7
Genealogy Corner	7
Lake Wissota Centennial Picnic.....	8-9
Lake Wissota: The Dam Story ..	3
Membership Form.....	2
Membership Program Speaker..	4
Newsletter Sponsors	6 & 10
President’s Letter.....	4



Mark your calendars and save this date:

Monday, October 2 | 6:30 p.m.

CCHS Bi-Annual Membership Meeting and Program:
Building a New Museum - Frank Smoot



Campaign co-chairs David Raihle, Jr. and Bob Hogseth hold a cross cut saw revealing the current amount raised for the \$3.5 million project. Other campaign Executive committee members from left are: Dave Gordon, Gary Swartz, Anne Keller, Jim Schuh, Skip August and Wendy Sullivan.

Capital Campaign Kickoff

BY JIM SCHUH

On Wednesday morning, September 6, Campaign co-chairs, Bob Hogseth and David Raihle, Jr., welcomed a crowd of people to announce the kickoff of the \$3.5 million Chippewa Area History Center Capital Campaign. A large sign, depicting a notched, white pine tree tracking fundraising progress, was unveiled at the future History Center site. Major donations from Rutledge Charities, the Gertrude and William Casper Foundation, and Northwestern Bank, along with contributions from Chippewa County Historical Society and Chippewa County Genealogical Society members, have generated a beginning fund balance of \$775,000. Now everyone is encouraged to join in and make their campaign gifts to get this exciting project underway.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



MEMBERSHIP FORM

DATE _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE / ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

Type of Membership:

Individual

\$25 (1-year) \$70 (3-year)

Family

\$35 (1-year) \$100 (3-year)

Contributing Member

\$60 (1-year) \$170 (3-year)

Life Membership

\$500 (individual) \$750 (couple)

I would like to make an additional donation

\$ _____

MAIL TO:

Chippewa County Historical Society
123 Allen Street
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729



Dave Gordon and David Raihle, Jr. congratulate Dave Paukner and Bob Sworski on CBS Squared, Inc. winning the architectural bid as building committee member Skip August looks on.

Capital Campaign Kickoff CONTINUED FROM FRONT

The Community Foundation of Chippewa County has been contracted to receive and invest the building funds prior to construction. Bob emphasized this is a cost saving, all-volunteer fundraising effort so volunteers will be used instead of hiring a private fundraising company.

In late 2016, a local architectural and engineering firm, CBS Squared, Inc., volunteered to provide conceptual plans for the new center. After completing that plan, a request for proposals was sent to several local architectural and engineering firms. When the submissions were compared, CBS Squared, which had exhibited innovative concepts and great enthusiasm for the project, was selected.

City of Chippewa Falls Mayor, Greg Hoffman, Parks and Recreation Director, Dick Hebert, and CCHS President, Dave Gordon, attended the event and spoke about the community benefits a new history center would provide and expressed their personal support for the project.

During the presentation, Bob provided background on the societies. In 1969, the Chippewa County Historical Society was created and in 1980, the Chippewa County Genealogical Society was formed. The two organizations committed to preserving local history, moved into Notre Dame Parish's former convent building in 1990. During 2006, the societies began searching for a building in a more visible location that would provide improved accessibility and a more stable environment for historic artifacts.

Two Years ago, an American Alliance of Museums, Museum Assessment Consultant gave recommendations and reinforced the need for an improved history center building. In late 2015, an ideal location next to Irvine Park on Bridgewater Avenue was purchased for the proposed new history center. The following year the planning process began in earnest and a Capital Campaign Executive Committee was formed. The societies then began planning a 20,000 square foot, handicap accessible and climate controlled building that will include an interactive history museum, an enhanced genealogical research library, an auditorium and classrooms along with a gift shop, refreshment area and many other Chippewa area oriented offerings.

The absolutely beautiful morning was a perfect setting for this kickoff at the future History Center site as the campaign volunteers excitedly hoisted the plaque showing the solid start of \$775,000 toward the ultimate goal. Seeming to give a sign approving our venture, an eagle soared low over the treetops to the crowd's delight. Not lost in the ceremony was the emphasis on a center to showcase the considerable impact this Chippewa Area Community has had worldwide.

For additional information visit: Website: www.ChippewaAreaHistoryCenter.org
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ChippewaAreaHistoryCenter>

Chippewa Area HISTORY CENTER



Total Campaign Goal: \$3,500,000 * Construction Begins At: \$2,450,000

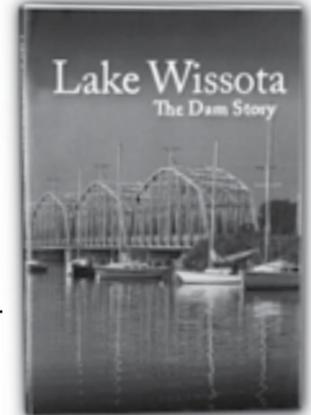
Gifts and Pledges

Received as of August 31, 2017: \$775,000

HISTORIAN SOCIETY	LUMBERJACK SOCIETY	WHITE PINE SOCIETY
Ann & Dave Gordon	Northwestern Bank	Jim & Nancy Schuh
William J. and Gertrude R. Casper Foundation	Skip and Jill Thaler	Bob & Donna Hogseth Family
Edward and Hannah M. Rutledge Charities, Inc.		
OLD ABE SOCIETY	PIONEER SOCIETY	VOYAGEUR SOCIETY
Emmett & Anne Keller	Scott & Wendy Sullivan	Rose & Skip August
David & Rita Raihle	Anonymous	Don Bichner
Roger Howard		Dan & Jacque Daniel
		Judith & James Rubenzer
		Diane Hopkins Whelan
CHIPPEWA SOCIETY		
Chippewa County Abstract & Title	George & Peggy Fleming	JoAnn Flater Memorial
OTHER GIFTS & PLEDGES		
Anonymous	Mary E. McKenna	Flambeau Area Trail Tenders
Eva & F. Christian Arndt	Harold Flater	Patrick & Susan Quinn
Peter & Geraldine Arndt	Gaber Signs	Tony & Nancy Schuster
Byron & Dianne Bobb	Neil Goodall	Sid & Jill Strozok
Del & Donna Bourget	Marge & Eugene Hebring	Tricia Warns
Reverend David Busker	Scott Holst	Mary Lou Burdick
Linda & Bill Butek	James & Joan Leary	Janet Clarke
Marge Geissler	Barbara Graham	Lorraine Pontius
Steve Roesler	Jean and Tom Hebert	Senator Dave Zien
Diana Germain (in memory of Wayne Germain)	Patrick & Susan O'Donnell (Charles' 90th)	Lorraine Pontius (in memory of John Pontius)
Ruth Ann Gilbertson and John Lauson	Chad and Amanda Hill-Hable	

Thank you for supporting historic preservation and education!

Please note: As explained in the "Donor Recognition Plan", we are printing only the names of those gifting \$100 or more to the Capital Campaign. We do, however, sincerely appreciate the many gifts under this amount! If you believe your gift was omitted or listed incorrectly, please call 715-723-4399. We apologize for any errors and will do our best to correct them.



Lake Wissota: The Dam Story, a new pictorial history book published by the Chippewa County Historical Society (CCHS) became available for \$20 in early June. The book celebrates the lake's 100-year anniversary. Authors Donna Bourget, Anne Keller and Jim Schuh held several book signings and speaking engagements and sales have been excellent. Because our first 2,000 books are almost gone we have ordered another 1,000 from Rooney Printing.

All sale proceeds are being donated to support the New Chippewa Area History Center Capital Campaign. The book is available by mail by adding \$5.00 and sending a check and request to the Historical Society.

Current Book Sales Locations in Chippewa Falls:

1. Chippewa County Historical Society, 123 Allen St. (Open Tuesdays 9 am – 4 pm)
2. Chippewa Falls Main Street, 514 N. Bridge St.
3. Country Treasures, 216 N. Bridge St.
4. Dick's Chalet, 17415 Cty Hwy X
5. Foreign 5, 123 N. Bridge St.
6. SandBar & Grill, 17643 50th Ave.
7. Sherri Jo's Wayside, 18091 Cty Hwy X
8. Wissota Express, 17255 Cty Hwy X



Membership Program Speaker

Frank Smoot will be our quest speaker and he will share his recommendations about "Designing, Building and Moving to a New Museum". We are fortunate that Frank, Director of the Dunn County Historical Society, was involved in designing, building, moving and opening a new museum in Oregon recently and that he is willing to share his experiences and knowledge.



CALENDAR

History Center open every Tuesday | 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Sept. 19:

Noon Area History Center Birthday Lunch Pot Luck

1:30 p.m. The Past Passed Here Planning Meeting

Sept. 23

9 a.m.-1 p.m. Museum Open [4th Sat.]

Sept. 26

9 a.m. Capital Campaign Executive Committee

Oct. 2

6:30 p.m. CCHS Bi-Annual Membership Meeting

Oct. 10:

9 a.m. Capital Campaign Executive Committee

Oct. 17

Noon Area History Center Birthday Lunch

1:30 p.m. The Past Passed Here Planning Meeting

Oct. 24

9 a.m. Capital Campaign Executive Committee

Oct. 28

9 a.m.-1 p.m. Museum Open [4th Sat.]

Oct. 31

10:30 a.m. Historic Marker Committee Meeting

Nov. 14

9 a.m. Capital Campaign Executive Committee

Nov. 21

9:30 a.m. CCHS Board Meeting

Noon Area History Center Birthday Lunch

1:30 p.m. The Past Passed Here Planning Meeting

A Message From Your President

One thought came to mind as I sat down to write this message. "Be careful what you ask for, you might get it." Well, today started off with the opening ceremony at 12 Bridgewater Avenue for the new Chippewa Area History Center capital campaign to raise funds for the future home of CAHC. It was fun to tell those attending we have \$775,000 pledged before we start our campaign. We'll keep the community knowing how we are doing with our fourteen-foot pine tree thermometer. Also at the ceremony, we were able to introduce two members of the architect/engineering firm, CBS Squared, Inc., the firm to which we awarded the contract for design and construction management of the new CAHC. After talking about a new museum for eleven years I feel it might really happen.

Of course the work has just begun. While we will begin designing the new CAHC, we will not begin construction until we have raised 75% of the \$3,500,000. Doing the math, that means we still have to raise \$1,850,000. The campaign committee will be contacting everyone to ask each to help us reach our goal. The building committee will be working with CBS Squared designing the new building and the rest of us will be working on being sure all of our artifacts are inventoried so the huge task of moving to a new building will be easier. We also will be looking for the professional staff to operate the new center.

Our semi-annual membership meeting will take place on Monday, October 2nd at 6:30 p.m. at the History Center. Frank Smoot will be our quest speaker and his talk will be "Designing, Building and Moving to a new museum." We are fortunate that Frank, Director of the Dunn County Historical Society, was involved in designing, building, moving and opening a new museum in Oregon recently.

There are three items of business to be taken care of at our membership meeting.

1. Approve By-Law changes. The Board has been reviewing the administration operation of the society and in this newsletter there are the proposed changes to the by-laws that will be voted upon. Also please see new member dues listed the Membership Form in this newsletter.
2. Elect Directors and Officers. The society has the directors in three classes serving three-year terms and the officers in two-year classes serving two-year terms.
3. Accept nominations for the Hall of Fame. The Board each year in January elects a maximum of three members who have made significant contributions to the Society to its Hall of Fame.

The Chippewa County Historical Society continues on a very busy path to new goals. We need all members to assist the Society in our mission to preserve and share the rich history of our area. We need your time, talent and financial support. *Dave* ♣



An actor rests his elbow on a journal from the French Lumber Company donated to CCHS by the Mandelert family and pretends to write in a journal on loan from Jim and Nancy Schuh.

Chippewa Herald Donation

JIM ERICKSON AND GARY SWARTZ

A few months ago, the Chippewa Herald Newspaper told us it would like to donate its old books of newspaper copies to the CCHS/CCGS when we moved to the new museum. After a few calls and visits to get an idea of the number and size of the books, we asked, "Would it be possible to get them now?" If we had room for them! And that was a problem because it turned out there were more copies than we did have room for.

Looking around our present building, we found places where we could move some equipment and, with a little maneuvering, we were able to clear two walls for storage space. And then, when it became obvious we needed some means to store the copies, the Herald stepped in to offer their shelving, too.

Gary Swartz took charge of the move and conscripted his two brothers, Allen and Gerald, to clear the storage space to be, figure how much could be stored there, and when a pickup could be made. Upon arrival for that pickup at the Herald, the "crew" found there were nine shelves full of books dating from 1901 to the present and they were stored in an extra deep basement. The new storage space only allowed four shelves so a new plan would be needed for the rest.

Moving the books meant loading them into the back of their truck and securing them by laying one of the storage shelves on top. That was only the first load! After several more truckful loads, everything was moved—but needed carrying, cleaning, sorting, shelving, and more. Luckily, Wendy Sullivan and Nancy Schuh arrived and dove in to fill the shelves in chronological order and help where needed. It got to be quite a mess and, if you can begin to imagine the effort, it was a lot of hard work.

Eventually, the mess was swept up, the books shelved, straightened and some moved up to the third floor. And what was the reward for all this? I understand the crew ended up at Olson's for ice cream. A bigger reward was this new resource. At the Centers, they use the books EVERY SINGLE WEEK in their activities and research, which illustrates how important this donation has been. Thank you Chippewa Herald! You can be assured your offering will be appreciated for many, many years to come. And we will be even more excited to move the books into the new museum. ♣



The **Eagle Speaks** newsletter is published quarterly and we frequently receive feedback from readers who say they enjoy the variety of articles and news. Thank you to our newsletter committee for all of your volunteer efforts! Authors include Dave Gordon, Jim Mandelert, Jim Schuh and Gary Swartz. Proof-readers include Jim Erickson (with help from his wife Mary) and Nancy Schuh. A special thank you to Elly Rochester who makes it look beautiful and interesting with her layout and design skills.

Local Movie: The Lumber Baron

ROXANNE PAUKNER

You might have heard about a movie being made in and about the Chippewa Valley this summer called "The Lumber Baron." As Art Director I was responsible for the sets and props used in this historical fiction set in 1910. Thanks to Jim and Nancy Schuh and the History Center, I was able to borrow some artifacts that helped set the scenes accurately. While the production company, Scene & Hurd, is local, the actors and technical crew came from far and wide. They were impressed with our dedication to carrying out this task, and in awe of our local amenities. Expected to be completed by 2018, this feature film will be entertaining, educational and beautiful, thanks in large part to your contributions. I very much appreciated the help in showcasing our beautiful city and its rich history! ♣



These businesses support our newsletter. Stop by and let them know how much you appreciate it!

Lucy's Delicatessen
Eatery • Market • Wine
715-720-9800
117 N. Bridge St., Chippewa Falls

Foreign 5
of Chippewa Falls
Boutique • Floral • Gifts
Bridal • Tattoos
715-723-6389
123 N. Bridge St., Chippewa Falls

BOHL AND PROULX PLUMBING INC.
Plumbing Service • Water Systems
Chippewa Falls: 715-723-9655
Eau Claire: 715-832-4795

SPECTRUM INDUSTRIES INC.
1600 Johnson St. • Chippewa Falls, WI
Phone: 715-723-6750 • Fax: 715-723-9002
Email: spectrum@spectrumfurniture.com
Web: www.spectrumfurniture.com

community owned, community focused
CITIZENS STATE BANK
Cadott
304 N. Main St.
715-289-4253
Chippewa Falls
15036 County Hwy S
715-726-2111
Lake Wissota
17153 County Hwy J
715-720-3670
Member FDIC www.csbankcadott.com

MASON SHOE OUTLET STORE
Men's & Women's
Name Brand
Dress—Casual—Work
301 Bridge St. • Chippewa Falls

WILEY LAW S.C.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
119 1/2 N. Bridge St. • Chippewa Falls, WI
715-723-8591 • www.wileylaw.com

GORDY'S County Market.
www.gordyscountymarket.net

THALER OIL COMPANY, INC.
Locally Owned & Operated Since 1955
Propane Gas, Tanks & Installation • Fuel Oil • Bulk Lubricants
Steve Thaler • John Thaler
Office 715-723-2822 or 1-800-472-0019 • Cell 715-839-5510
310 Main St. • Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
www.thaleroil.com

HORAN Funeral Home
420 Bay St.,
Chippewa Falls
715-723-4404

CCOA
CHIPPEWA COUNTY
ABSTRACT & TITLE Co., INC.
Dot Reischel
dotr@chippewacountyabstract.com
18 West Spring St. • Chippewa Falls
715-723-3747
www.chippewacountyabstract.com

PV PEDERSON-VOLKER FUNERAL CHAPEL
Established 1902
715-723-4649
Stacy Pickerign & Bill Volker
Funeral Directors

Where People Matter
NORTHWESTERN BANK
Your Community Bank
www.northwesternbank.com
202 N. Bridge St. | Chippewa Falls
715.723.4461
MEMBER FDIC

Sokup Sales Estate Liquidation
Household • Estates • Antiques
40 yrs. Experience
Also buy 1 item or entire estate.
715-723-3790 • Julie
715-723-9007 • Teri

LEINIE LODGE
Tour a Historic Brewery
Mon-Thur & Sat: 9 am-5 pm
Fri: 9 am-8 pm
Sun: 11 am-4 pm
Reservations recommended.
Hwy. 124 N. • Chippewa Falls • 1-888-LEINIES
Visit us at leinie.com

CHIPPEWA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

GENEALOGY CORNER

GARY SWARTZ, PRESIDENT
Not too long ago, we saw that a genealogical society in Illinois bought an overhead scanner and put it to constant use in its library. So learning all we could about such scanners, we began to look into getting one of our own. After a board meeting discussion and our agreement that this would be an outstanding asset, Roger Howard offered to buy it for us. After a bit of shopping around, we discovered that a new model had been introduced with similar features and reviews, but at half the price of the initial version. So we bought the newer one, set it up in the library and eagerly put it to immediate use. Already, we have digitized several old plat maps and many school records that had never been backed up. Even more important for us is that we no longer have to flip the large, heavy books upside down on the copy machine, a frequent maneuver that was damaging the books from such excessive handling. Also, this scanner will remove the curve from an open book during the scan and can do both pages at the same time.

With finger covers, the scanner will remove your thumbs from the scan if it is necessary to hold the book open with your thumbs. Another nice feature is the Optical Character Recognition, which makes the scanned document searchable for a name or specific item. And a high quality 11 x 17 inch page can be scanned in a matter of seconds giving us the option of sending digital copies by email or downloading them to a flash drive.

You know it isn't easy trying to keep up with technology today, but this scanner has excited us with its capabilities and really brings us up to date technologically. So, thank you, Roger, for your most generous gesture in buying the scanner. It will serve us, and those using our services, immeasurably. ☺

(If we have missed anyone please let us know)



Donations

In Memory of Patricia Hebert

James & Mary J. Stumm (nephew)
Mary Jarussi (neice)
Arline & Laurie Buchner (friends)

Doris Young (sister in-law)
Anne L. & Jeffrey Holcomb (neice)
Susan Moore

In Memory of Jan Ferguson

John S. Bjerke

Building Fund in Memory of Patricia Hebert

Evalyn Maloney
Gyda Nadreau

Mary Jarussi
Anne & Jeffrey Holcomb

General Donations

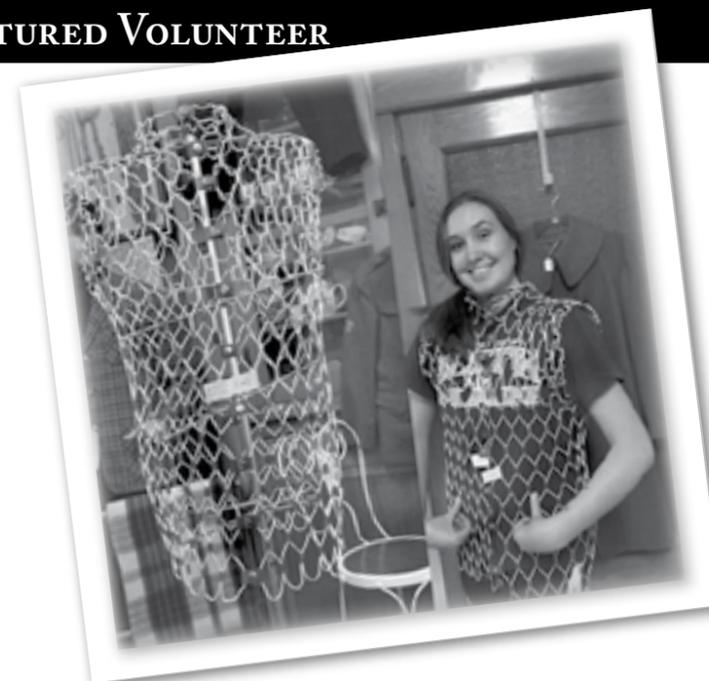
Mary Blake
Mary Kay Norseng
Doris Blake

Lake Wissota Centennial Celebration

Dean Arnold
Charles & Susan Arnold

John Arnold
Louis G. Arnold

FEATURED VOLUNTEER



Pictured is Monica Shear modeling our dress making mold. Thank you so much for volunteering your time and talents at the Chippewa County Historical Society this summer Monica! You made a major contribution to our organizing task list and your personality made our time with you enjoyable and FUN! Because our dress making form was molded to you we will always have something to remember you by! ☺



Here are some of the comments that were received about the event:

"A very good day indeed..."

Dave Hladilek, Lake Wissota State Park Ranger

"...What an event! What coordination of all kinds of civic groups, volunteers, and corporations! You all should be very proud of yesterday's event..."

Barbara Arnold, Volume One writer.

"...Great day and fun event to be a part of celebrating such a historic occasion with a good old fashion picnic... Nice work!!"

Robert C. Schultz, Xcel Energy Community Service Manager

"Amanda & I had a great time singing our Wissota ballads at the celebration. Thank you for all the organization work."

Jerry Way, *Wissota in the Making* composer

"Thank you for arranging this event. It was exceptionally well planned and implemented. I appreciated the opportunity to have a table to explain the mechanics and accomplishments of Little Lake Wissota Stewardship project..."

Dan Masterpole, Chippewa County Land Conservation & Forest Management Department Director/County Conservationist



The Lake Wissota and Dam Anniversary was a Huge Success!

JIM SCHUH

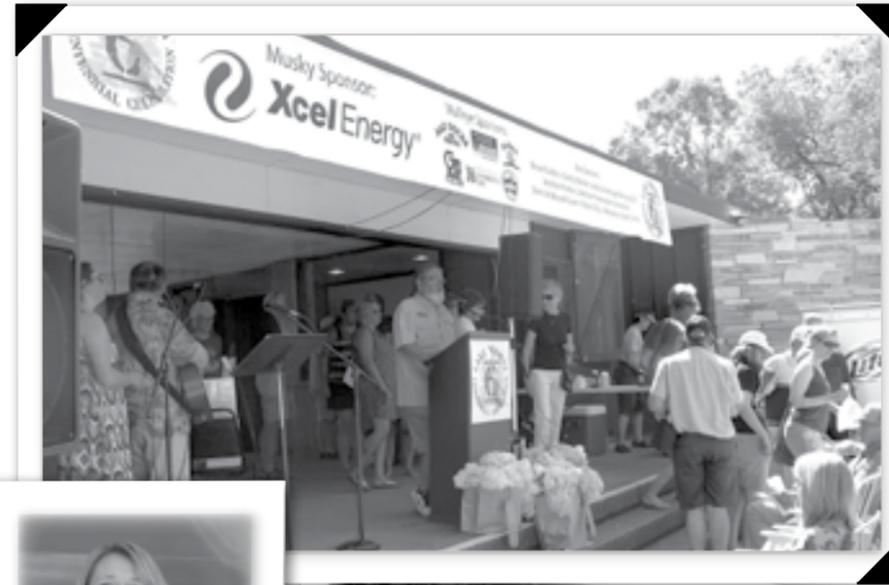
Planning began four years ago during the fall of 2013. At that time Xcel Energy showed us more than 550 photos that were taken during dam construction from 1915 to 1917. I also began writing newsletter articles about the activities that took place leading up to dam construction. A planning committee was formed made up of board members of the CCHS and the Lake Wissota Improvement & Protection Association (LWIPA) including Skip August, Chuck Card, Tony Schuster and myself.

Media Coverage was Excellent. Thank you to Mark Gunderman, Communications Specialist at CVTC, who volunteered to head up the media recruitment efforts. The Leader Telegram published a multi page article July 16. Mark wrote two articles that were printed in the Chippewa Herald August 4 and 5. WEAU 13 News Anchor, Judy Clark, interviewed LWIPA President, Mary Jo Fleming and myself in August. Both local TV stations covered the picnic, in addition to informing people about the 100th anniversary and enormous scope of the dam project. We also informed the public about the efforts that are underway to improve the lake's water quality.

The Lake Wissota Centennial Celebration Picnic was held July 29, 2017 at the Lake Wissota State Park. There were free activities including ceremonies, ten educational displays, live original music, a picnic, boat rides and tours! Invitations were mailed to members of the CCHS and the LWIPA. These two non-profit organizations planned and coordinated the event. About 600 people attended.

People who did not have a chance to hear Jerry Way's new musical, *Wissota in the Making* at the picnic were able to see and hear the full Swamper's concert at the Heyde Center for the Arts two weeks later.

Thank you to the many volunteers who made this event such a success. The Lake Wissota Loins Club did an outstanding job cooking and serving the food. Numerous people pitched in to help on the day of the picnic. The friends of Lake Wissota State Park coordinated parking. Several people manned the educational displays. Volunteers gave boat rides and lead tours after the picnic. ♣



Thank you to our event sponsors:



MUSKY
Xcel Energy



WALLEYE

A&D Docks

General Beer

Gordy's Market

Pine Harbor Campground

Northwestern Bank

Old Dutch Foods

SandBar & Grill



BASS

Brown Builders

Friends of Lake Wissota State Park

Jacob Leinenkugel Brewing Company

Jacobson's Market

Kamp Kenwood /

Wisconsin Farmers Union

Lakeshore Preservation Association

Lake Wissota Lions Club

Lake Wissota State Park / WI-DNR

Lake Wissota Yacht Club

McDonell Central High School

Reinhart Food Service

Sherri Jo's Wayside Tavern

Sokup's Market

Sysco

Thaler Oil Company

WESTconsin Credit Union

Chippewa County Historical Society

AREA HISTORY CENTER | 715-723-4399
123 ALLEN ST. | CHIPPEWA FALLS, WI 54729-2898

Open on Tuesdays 9 am-4 pm | Open on Fourth Saturdays 9 am-1pm, Sept.-May

Non-profit Organization
U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit No. 403
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

Address Service Requested

THE EAGLE SPEAKS



SEPTEMBER 2017

Preserving Your Past — For Future Generations

www.chippewacountywihistoricalsociety.org

www.facebook.com/ChippewaCountyHistoryCenter



The Eagle Speaks is published quarterly by the Chippewa County Historical Society, a non-profit organization established to promote and stimulate historical interest in Chippewa County. Mail any comments or future articles to: Chippewa County Historical Society, 123 Allen St., Chippewa Falls, WI | 715-723-4399



- Signs
- Stickers
- Graphics
- Banners

33 E. Willow Street

715-723-3437

www.gabersigns.com



715-723-7777 | rooneyprinting.com