

May, 2020



BERNARD HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

Our Times

A Season in Question...

The Corona Virus Disease 2019 pandemic (Covid-19), has put our opening date and, indeed, our 2020 season in question. For the most part, the Bernard Museum relies on volunteers to support our mission. We will follow State guidelines about opening and will also err on the side of caution so as not to put our volunteers, many who are seniors, in harm's way.

Originally, our intent was to open the first weekend in June but that is not likely to happen. It may not happen until late in the summer but we will try to keep our website updated with the latest projections.

We will continue to address ongoing projects and maintain buildings and grounds to the best of our ability.

Some buildings are in need of roof repairs. We have sidewalks needing attention and

additional walks we would like to have poured. Trees along the perimeter of our property need attention as well, some need to be removed for the safety of our buildings.

And, of course, we have displays we would like to rework and other new ones we would like to add.

As always, volunteers are needed and appreciated. When our season does begin, we will need additional help with guiding visitors through the museum and with all the projects listed above, and others that are on our wish list.

And, too, we have an election coming up for three board members. Currently, only the incumbent directors are running. In recent years we have had only minimal success in

getting ballots returned. For that reason we will not be mailing out ballots this year to cut our costs. Ballots can be downloaded and printed from our website or we will have them available at the Museum's main entrance for you to pick up. You can either mail the completed ballot to us or use the drop box we will provide at the Museum's main entrance. Thank you for your consideration.

We trust that all of you are doing your best to stay safe through these trying times and will continue to do so.



Pandemics generally...

The current Covid 19 scare will not be our last pandemic. As history shows us, they come and go and even though our current state of medicine makes us better prepared, the risk to society will always be great. From the Black Death of the 1300's which took over 75 million lives to the HIV/Aids pandemic which took 36 million lives, unexpected diseases can quickly get the upper hand if not held in check early. As research tells us, the best way to stay ahead of any disease is to be as healthy as you can. Exercise regularly, eat healthy and don't put yourself at risk unnecessarily.

Is it time for you to renew your membership? If so, or if you are just interested in making a donation, take a moment to fill out this form and return it with you payment to: **Bernard Museum, PO Box 307, Delton, MI 49046**

You can also go to our website at: www.bernardmuseum.org and register/pay online.

☐

Annual Membership (\$20/family)

Make check payable to: **Bernard Museum**

☐

Lifetime Membership (\$200)

Your Name: _____

☐

Donation (You decide amount)

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Can we email you our newsletter to save us money?

Email address: _____

There's Always Been Something Fishy About Delton



Since the late 1800's fishing has been a major component of life in the greater Delton area. With dozens of lakes and interconnecting streams to choose from, it is no surprise that resorts catering to fishing enthusiasts sprang up on nearly every major lake. Most are now gone, but many are still going concerns. Most of us who grew up in the area can recount memories of family dinners centering around a mess of fried bluegills or perch. Boys and girls alike were tasked not only with learning the fine art of threading a wriggling worm on a hook (and then removing the unlucky fish later) but also with removing the fish's scales and innards. A gruesome task indeed for a young child. Many of us carried the lure of fishing into adulthood where we learned how to fry bigger fish. But, as much as fishing on a small lake was about bringing home some dinner, for many it was more about the peace of mind floating on a warm lake in summer can offer.

Now, because of shelter in place mandates, many of us are left at home with time on our hands. The lakes are still here, though. Many have public access points. A day floating on the lake can still ease a worried mind. And if you're not up for water adventures, there are dozens of hiking trails in the surrounding countryside that are free to use and equally calming.

At the Museum, we have a fine collection of vintage postcards depicting scenes from those bygone days. A goal for some of us is to put together a display showcasing those early times related to lake living. If you have items, such as old fishing lures, poles, tackleboxes, or other lake related items that you no longer wish to hang on to, consider donating the items to the Museum. The more we have to choose from the better our future display will be.

And speaking of old-timers and lake living, the Museum wishes to express it's gratitude for the kindness of Bud Leonard who passed last year. His generosity, and that of other area families, has made it possible for the Museum to not only continue with its mission of preserving local history, but will allow us to invest in and maintain the various structures which house are artifacts. Bud grew up fishing on Wall Lake and his father's seasonal rental cabins can still be seen along M-43 on the west side of the lake.

We are looking to purchase memorial benches to commemorate Bud and others who have remembered the Museum in their various estates.



Fun Lake Facts

Wall Lake: 540 acres	Pleasant Lake: 148 acres
Crooked Lake (upper): 735 acres	Gilkey Lake: 83 acres
Crooked Lake (lower): 433 acres	Cloverdale Lake: 58 acres
Long Lake: 146 acres	Guernsey Lake: 218 acres
Fair Lake: 238 acres	Gun Lake: 2,680 acres

The Bernard Historical Society & Museum

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