

# PRESQUE ISLE HARBOR ASSOCIATION



## NEWSLETTER

**FALL 2008**

Published By And For The Membership

### PRESIDENTS REPORT FALL 2008

Its fall again, and soon to be winter. Where did the summer go? It seems that we were just welcoming spring. Maybe its because it didn't feel much like summer around here.

Because of the economy, we didn't think many people would be using the campground, but we had a fairly good year. The bunk house was used quite a bit and transient camping was good also.

As most of you may recall, the members of the Presque Isle Harbor Association voted a Township special assessment tax for the repair of the roads in the Association. That assessment began on your December 1999 tax bill and is scheduled to end with the December 2008 tax bill. Road assessments begin with estimates, voters approve the amount and the Township lets the job out for bids. The actual cost of the re-paving was much lower than was estimated by approximately \$250,000.00.

What's hard to believe is that the Township decided to loan the excess revenue in the Presque Isle Harbor Association Road Fund to other road re-paving projects within the Township instead of either re-funding the excess money to the members or, to reduce by a couple of years, the Special Assessment Tax. Members must remember, the 2008 Tax bill, which contains your road assessment tax, must be paid as sent. With the current balance in the PIHA road fund, and, with the December Tax collection, there will be an excess of revenue

which in some way needs to be distributed. What is not understood, is why they just didn't bond the other assessment districts like they did for PIHA and if interest is being paid, by the load, to the PIHA Road Fund. Maybe it's not illegal, but sure seems unethical. Steve Lang and I have had meetings with Township officials and all have agreed that the PIHA Road Fund will be made whole. Here is a thought; we could use the excess funds to do road maintenance. These roads are now 10 years old and some maintenance will be required in the near future. It's the members money, and it appears that Michigan Law deems it to be paid back to the owners of record when the resolution is passed to refund it.

Another item that we aren't to happy about is the continuing saga with Presque Isle Lakes Resort. They owe 2 years of assessments and PIHA have filed in court to collect their assessments which is the same process of collection we impose on all owners who do not pay their assessments. So, it looks like a long court battle.

The Clubhouse continues to get a lot of use. The pool, hot tub, exercise room and multi-purpose room are always in use along with, mahjong, meetings and parties. The foresight of the Association Board at the time, and, all of you, to enlarge our Clubhouse was indeed a need that was met.

A big thanks to all of you. We also need to thank Steve Lang and all the Presque Isle Harbor Association Staff for the great job that they do all of the time. Without them, we wouldn't be the envy of all the other Northern Michigan resorts!

I would like to say thanks to our present board for all that they do, and also a big thanks to all the committees. We couldn't operate without them either.

*Gene Austin,  
President*

#### Highlights

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## MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Over the years, many of us came to this area for different reasons, i.e.: remoteness, privacy, quietness and the pristine beauty of the surroundings.

Most of us have tried to preserve these attributes and labored to make the community even more desirable and attractive to its residents. Improving our campground, beach houses, clubhouse facility and the trail system throughout the community so people could enjoy the vast common areas of wilderness.

A small but significant element within our community does not seem to appreciate the efforts that have gone into the development of these trails. The signs posted to keep ATV's off the trails is intended to keep them suitable for hiking and walking. As evidenced in the accompanying photo, ATV's traversing these trails are in effect destroying them for any other usage..



This community belongs to all of us , not just a few who seem bent on destroying it. We all have an obligation to protect it. When anyone observes these abuses taking place, they have an obligation as a member to take some action. Try to get some identification (color of ATV, description of the individual, license number, etc) of the perpetrators and reporting it to our community manager or any staff member. This is everyone responsibility.

*Maintenance Committee*

## 2008 BOARD MEMBER ELECTION RESULTS

The three members elected to the Board of Directors for three years terms are:

**Lou Sytsma   Sharon Jacobs   Larry Textor**

*Congratulations on your election to the Board and thank you (the membership) for participating in the election process.*

*For those members who ran for the Board and were not successful, the Association is grateful to have members wanting to participate in the governing process of this Association.*

## Appreciation Dinner

The Presque Isle Harbor Association Board of Directors showed their appreciation for the many committee chairs in our organization with a dinner on September 26. The board members prepared a delicious multi course meal and served about fifty people in our activities room. It was a fun evening with great food, great people and great fellowship.

Our volunteers are a very important part of this organization. If you have an interest in working on any of the various committees please contact a board member or Steve Lang.

## STORAGE FACILITY IN PIHA?

Our lifestyle here in PIHA quite often involves the great outdoors. Outdoor activities usually mean recreational toys for those activities. These toys are used for part of the year, and are usually stored when not in use. Many of us are paying for off season storage for our boats and snowmobiles or have them covered with tarps in our yard. Would you be interested in having storage available here in PIHA? Under consideration is indoor cold storage for boats, recreational vehicles and trailers. Also possible is a section of individual storage units for smaller items.

At this time we are looking for indications of interest in this project. Please contact Steve at the clubhouse with the following information:

What type of item would you want to store? How tall is it, how wide and how long? What months of the year would you use this storage? If you are currently paying for storage, how much are you paying?

We will gather this information to help decide if this is a project with potential to be of value to you, the members of the association.

## Security Patrol

We want to remind you of the Presque Isle Association Security Patrol. The Presque Isle Harbor Property Owners Association provides, by volunteer committee, a security program for your convenience. This program is offered in the spirit of good neighbors promoting a safe and harmonious environment in our community. A twice-weekly random check of the exterior of your premises will be made to determine it's condition. Problems will be reported to the Association Manager and Property Owner. The Security Patrol will not check the residences or camper while the members are using them. It is the responsibility of the owner to notify the Security Committee when they will be gone. Property owners using our service should keep the property accessible at all times. Snow plowing of driveways not only helps to improve Security Patrol access, but it is an asset for fire protection and fuel deliveries as well. Your property or camper can be included in the program for a small donation to cover expenses. The cost of \$50 for the year is relatively small and offsets the fuel costs incurred by the Security Patrol Committee members. You can obtain a

form to sign up for the service at the clubhouse or you can request one be mailed to you. The Security Patrol sends a donation request to the members that they currently serve in March of each year. If you received a letter of request and did not return it, your home or camper is not being checked. Please check your records. If you are having trouble in any way in determining whether you have paid or not, please contact the Association office for verification.

## **ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE**

### **September Potluck**

This September no one volunteered to host the potluck, so it was canceled. There were many who volunteered to help with the Hobo Dinner and they felt those activities were too close together. Please let me know if that is what people want to do in the future. Marilyn Kettler, Activities Chair

## **SUPERBOWL PARTY**

We still need workers to help with this event. It's always fun to watch A1 Seyfferth win the pool.

### **Policy Regarding Members and Nonmembers**

It was asked of me which events were for members and guests only and which were open to the public. My first instinct was to say that activities to which we sell tickets are open to non-members. Steve and I discussed this and we agreed that: all Association events and facilities are for members and guests only. On occasion, and in meeting with the Boards goals and objectives of reaching out to the greater community, we open certain activity event to all i.e.: dinner dances, hobo dinner and pancake breakfasts. The Presque Isle County Council on Aging Senior Dinners, along with the Men's Club and Woman's Club meeting are also open to the public.

## **Hobo Dinner**



The hobo dinner was awesome this year, we had at least 131 people! The weather was perfect and the flies were few. As always, a big thanks to Morley and Pete for cooking up the grub. Bill Lapine was generous enough to make wooden hobo's for signs this year. They were adorable and really helped in reminding everyone of the date for our dinner. As always, we were blessed by our neighbors with really beautiful gifts for the drawings and scrumptious desserts to eat. Dr. Dave Larkin played music for us during dinner, then, after dinner we captured him by the fire and he played for us until after 9. Thanks Dr. Dave. Our hobo of the

year was Peggy Stewart. She had a wonderful costume which included, blackened tooth, patched up clothes, and a nasty tooth brush. She will display the boot proudly in her home until next years hobo dinner. Denise Hopp won second prize. A special thanks goes out to each of you for helping and just making this such a great community to live in. If you have any comments on the Hobo Dinner or concerns you can email me at sherrilzeitlerkvahoo.com

## **Beach Pool and Clubhouse Committee**

We would like to thank everyone who joined us for our pancake breakfasts June, July and August. We had a great time and hope you enjoyed our endeavors. For all those who missed the August breakfast you missed Steve hard at work flipping pancakes. We also owe gratitude to all who helped us. We are sure we will be doing more of these so keep an eye out at the clubhouse.

We are planning a tea party for November 15th and since it is the start of deer hunting season we are calling it St. Antlers Tea Party. It should start around noon or 1:00, please look for sign up sheets soon at the clubhouse so we can tell approximately how many guests we'll have. We hope anyone not heading out to get their deer will join us.

At this time, we are also starting to plan a Mardi Gras dinner which should end up being the Saturday before Fat Tuesday February 24th 2009. We are planning for this to be a fund raiser. Please check the clubhouse and web site for information in the coming months. We are also going to do an Easter Egg hunt again this year which should be the Saturday before Easter. Again please check at the clubhouse and on the web site. If the weather permits it will be outside if not, inside. Everyone that came to the last one had fun and everyone went home with some goodies. Again we will probably be asking for donations.

We wanted to let you know that we purchased four new cabanas for Grand Lake Beach and they were put into service this summer. Hope all who used them enjoyed the new additions. We are also going to donate money to upgrade our security system at the clubhouse.

At this time we are looking into new playground equipment. We want you to know what and where our profits at the breakfast and dinners go. Anyone with any suggestion can fill out a form at the clubhouse sign it and leave it in the suggestion box. We do try to get back to you.

## **We're Lost**

**Extra Extra!!! We are the clubhouse card tables and we can't find our way home!!** We were **borrowed awhile back** and maybe hiding in your **spare closet or in the garage**. There are two of us and we sure miss all our friends at the clubhouse. Please, Please, Please, if we have been at your house take us home, it will bring big smiles to everyone.

## **PRESQUE ISLE MEN'S CLUB**

### **Upcoming Events**

The Presque Isle Community Men's Club focuses on service and fellowship. If you know of need in the community, let the Club know. We have a Project Evaluation Committee that reviews request for assistance, and recommends appropriate action. Our web site, [www.mensclubpi.org](http://www.mensclubpi.org), has more information on the club and its activities. Check it out.

#### **Board Meeting**

The Club Board of Directors meets monthly at 9:00A.M. at the Presque Isle Harbor Assn., Arts and Craft Room. Meetings are scheduled for 11/3, 12/1 2008 and 1/5/09, and are open to all members. Contact Chuck Austin at (989-595-6216 or [chuckaustin@comcast.net](mailto:chuckaustin@comcast.net)) if you have an agenda item. Meetings are open to the public.

Upcoming meetings/topics are:

#### **November Meeting 9:00A.M. Nov. 6, 2008**

**Presque Isle Harbor Assn. Clubhouse** 6424 Kaufman Rd  
"Alpena Regional Medical Center Update" Karmon Bjella, the new CEO of the medical center is our speaker.

#### **December Meeting 9:00A.M. Dec. 4, 2008**

**Presque Isle Harbor Assn. Clubhouse** 6424 Kaufman Rd  
"Beijing China Olympics and China Visit" Dave Ward, a PICMC member attended the Olympics and will give us his personal update. Guest are Welcome!!!

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### **MAINTENANCE TEAM**

We would like to thank everyone who participated this summer in maintenance on the trails and at the clubhouse. As some of you may have noticed we re-stained the deck at the clubhouse and owe a debt of gratitude to all who helped. We look forward to you helping next summer. Pete Hunkele and Morley Kellogg

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## **Presque Isle Township Museum Society**

A busy and successful summer for the Presque Isle Township Museum Society began with the opening of the 1905 house to visitors who were greeted by the newly-installed voice of lightkeeper Elmer Byrnes. Elmer gives a short, informative presentation of lighthouse history and background, never complaining about the need to repeat his performance so often. In mid-June, a soup luncheon was held in Garraty hall, where over 50 volunteers renewed old acquaintances and looked forward to the work ahead. These wonderful volunteers are the life-blood of the museum society, working tirelessly in maintaining and supervising buildings and grounds, planning and carrying out all our events and greeting and guiding visitors.

The warm, sunny weather on July 5th helped to insure the success of a colorful parade and the enjoyment of the over 450 picnic lunches served. The newly-refurbished kitchen and a revised traffic flow for serving made things run more smoothly than ever. Weather conditions that day were also perfect for the dedication of the ST. Crapo lifeboat which had been "launched" on a cold day weeks earlier from the workshop in Garraty Hall

to the lawn area north of the lighthouse tower. The result of over 350 hours of expert restoration work, the lifeboat was dedicated to the memory of the late Lester Nichols and his efforts to improve the quality of life in Presque Isle township. Another new item, installed near the flagpole, is the Lynn cannon. This was not for destructive purposes, but rather was used to shoot a line from one ship to another during rescue operations.

It seems like summer was finally getting started when we were all back in Garraty Hall for the Labor Day picnic, where over 325 lunches were enjoyed amidst the many interesting, newly-installed photos and artifacts from old boats. Those who stayed long enough to wander about the grounds were delighted to be treated to maritime songs by Ruth and Russ Franzen.

After Labor Day, the 1095 house continued to be open for visitors on Saturdays and Sundays, bringing the total of visitors to over 2,500, including visitors from 40 states and 6 foreign countries. A big thank-you goes to all the docents who made these visits possible. Anyone who would like the chance to join us next year in meeting and greeting many interesting people may contact Nancy Boerger at 989-657-3600 or e-mail Nancy. [Boerger@gmail.com](mailto:Boerger@gmail.com)

Before the year ends, the 1095 house will be host to more visitors during the Lighthouse Festival, and then again during the Christmas holidays, when the Women's Club will sponsor the festivities. We all look forward to next spring's volunteer luncheon on May 16th, followed by our Independence Day Parade and picnic - right on July 4th!, the annual meeting on August 1, and the Labor Day Picnic on September 5. Until then, keep safe, button up and keep warm.

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### **DISCOVER PRESQUE ISLE COOPERATIVE**

Centered at Presque Isle MI in the Northeast corner of the lower peninsula, the Discover Presque Isle Cooperative (DPIC), previously called the Presque Isle Discovery Center (PIDC) offers geo-tourism and educational opportunities related to the outdoors, regional culture and the environment. For 2009 the DPI will offer two weeks of programming. Week 1: "Discovering Wind, Water, and Earth" June 21 - June 28, 2009

Week 1 will offer a five day Summer Sailing Camp for kids and teens, ages 8 - 17, swimming lessons and other water related activities designed to increase the fun and skill of youth and adults, and equip them to participate in the water sports which this part of Michigan is famous for. Expect a full week of programming which will include such activities as nature hikes to Thompson's Harbor and sink holes as well as geo-caching. We are planning for talks and music on the beach all with a focus on the local area.

Week 2: "Presque Isle Maritime Discovery Week" August 2 - 9, 2009 will include snorkeling visits the ship wrecks near Presque Isle, scuba lessons and diving, kayaking, hopefully a visit to a tall ship, and much much more, all centered on the maritime history of the region. We'll also offer experiences which will complete the experience of Presque Isle, such as nature hikes, craft sessions, and visits to local museums and historical sites.

For more information contact: Lucian Leone at [leonel@msu.edu](mailto:leonel@msu.edu).

# FRIENDS OF THE GRAND LAKE LIBRARY NEWS

We are fast approaching the one year mark in November since the opening of our new library! Patron usage has doubled and the computer use has been steadily busy. Our children and teen sections have also been very busy.

We also have a new face greeting you at the library. She is our part time Circulation Page, Kathy Darga. Liz Fitch, our Branch Manager says she has been an asset to the library in many ways, from assisting Liz and Library patrons, to the many clerical duties they need to perform daily.

The Friends of the Grand Lake Library will have their annual cookie exchange on December 8th, at 12:30P.M.. All members bring 2 dozen cookies and enjoy each others cookies and refreshments after their meeting. Entertainment will be provided with music and Christmas carols.

Spring will bring with it a return to the Geranium Sale in May. There will be more information on this in the community in April, so please watch for the posted flyers and order forms. The spring meeting will be held on May 11th, the 2nd Monday of the Month.

Just a reminder about our other monthly activities:

**Book chat- 3rd Thursday of month, 2PM**

**Craft Club- 1st Friday of the month 10:15AM**

Both are held at the library Contact Barb Mosier for the book chat or Judy Kimball on the craft club for further info.

If anyone is interested in joining the Friends group, please get an application at the Grand Lake Branch Library.

## Presque Isle Women's Club

All women are invited to join with us the third Tuesday of every other month beginning with January at the Presque Isle Harbor Association Clubhouse. The time is 12:30P.M.

The following is the new version of our mission statement. ***The Presque Isle Women's Club exists to furnish a practical basis for united action among those devoted to enriching community life.*** We meet for social fellowship to present and exchange ideas and opinions upon subjects of interest to members. Members share their time, talent efforts and resources in social actions that generate good will among the people. We raise and distribute funds to promote social projects, support educational activities, and expand charitable services. All of the donations are within Northeast Michigan and are non-political and non-denominational efforts deemed by our membership to be good for the community. The simplified versions: The mission of the Presque Isle Women's Club is to enhance the quality of life in our community by sharing our time, talents, efforts, and resources.

For the September meeting, our speaker was Beth Getzinger, coordinator of the Presque Isle County Food Pantry. For one of our charitable services this year, we donated \$500.00 to this food pantry. She can use our money to get great buys from various food banks. In November, our speaker will be Marianne Haddock

proprietor of "The Old Swede LLC" which specializes in European-Style Baked Goods and gluten-free. We will also work to make some crafts for the 1905 Ole Fashioned Community Christmas on December 6th and 7th 2008. Please mark your calendar and join us for this informative meeting.

The officers for this year are: President-Sharon Ulrich, Vice President- Sharon Jacobs, Secretary-Linda Seyfferth, and Treasurer-Lori Cook.

## OLDE FASHIONED COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS

*You are cordially invited to attend an Olde Fashion Christmas December 6th and 7th at the new Presque Isle Lighthouse Park. Come see the Keepers house decorated as it would have been in 1905.*

*Remember to bring your camera as there will be children's activities on Saturday from 1:30 to 3:00, with Santa arriving at 1:30 and horse drawn wagon rides from 1:40 to 4:00. On Sunday there will be a return visit from Santa along with the horse drawn wagon rides and live music throughout the two days.*

*Refreshments of mulled cider, hot chocolate and home-made cookies will be served both days.*

Saturday, December 6th	Sunday, December 7th
1:30 - 3:00 Children's Activities	1:30 - 4:00 Open House
1:30 - 3:00 Santa	1:30 - 3:00 Santa
1:40 - 4:00 Horse-Drawn Wagon Rides	1:40 - 4:00 Horse-Drawn Wagon Rides

## Did You Miss A Lot of Fun?

If you were not one of the intrepid group that boarded the bus at the clubhouse at 6AM sharp on Labor Day, you missed a lot of fun. The bus was headed to the Mackinaw Bridge for the annual bridge walk.

As usual the trip up to Mackinaw was quiet and subdued. After all, it was 6AM. Even through sleepy eyes the beauty of the Sunrise Side of the State was obvious.

By the time the bus arrived in St Ignace either the caffeine had kicked in or the brief nap had refreshed the early risers and the group was ready to conquer the mighty Big Mack.

The Presque Isle Harbor contingency joined the thousands of other walkers. They joined other walkers some of whom were barefoot, some with supplemental oxygen, others in wheel chairs, strollers and wagons. People from all walks of life participated in the walk. There were young, middle age and seniors. The PIHA members obviously fell in the young category, at least in spirit and attitude.

Let it be known that the group made an admirable contribution to the economy of Michigan. Following the walk there was ample time to shop in Mackinaw City. Many took full advantage of this opportunity. The shoppers were easily identified by their euphoric look. The return trip included a stop in Cheboygan for a buffet lunch. Judging from the smiles and looks of satiety, the menu was overwhelmingly approved.

As everyone departed the bus at approximately 2PM at the PIHA Clubhouse each individual had established their own memories of an eventful day. This was a day which combined exercise, good conversation with friends, new and old, an excellent meal and



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unique sights. This all came with the added bonus of avoiding the hassle and cost of driving and parking.

If you did not join in the walk this year, mark your calendar for next year. Come and establish your own memories. They last a lifetime. Who do you know?



### **Presque Isle County Council on Aging**

Presque Isle Council on Aging continues to serve meals at the PIHA Clubhouse once a month. The meals are \$3 for those 60 years of age or over and \$5 for those under 60. The meals are served at 1:00 pm and reservations are appreciated by signing up the Thursday before at the Clubhouse or the Grand Lake Chapel. For more information, please contact Barb Nagi at 786-8191.

### **Presque Isle Harbor Association WEB SITE**

We want to remind everyone of our web site it is now up and running and has a wealth of information especially if you misplace your newsletter. Please visit us at **presqueisleharbor.org**.

### **PIHA Activities Calendar Fall-Winter 2008-09**

- Oct 12** Senior Dinner 1:00 pm Clubhouse
- Oct 16** Potluck 5:00 pm Clubhouse
- Oct 19** Theater Party 2:00 pm Alpena Civic Theatre
- Oct 25** Halloween Party 5:00 pm Clubhouse
- Nov 9** Senior Dinner 1:00 pm Clubhouse
- Nov 15** St. Antlers Tea Party Clubhouse
- Nov 20** Potluck 5:00 pm Clubhouse
- Dec 6** Children's Party Garrity Hall
- Dec 13** Assoc. Party TBA Clubhouse
- Dec 14** Senior Dinner 1:00 pm Clubhouse
- Jan 1** New Year's Brunch Clubhouse
- Jan 11** Theater Party 2:00 pm Alpena Civic Theatre
- Jan 15** Potluck 5:00 pm
- Jan 18** Senior Dinner 1:00 pm
- Feb 1** Superbowl Party
- Feb 7** Winterfest
- Feb 8** Senior Dinner 1:00 pm
- Feb 19** Potluck 5:00 pm Clubhouse
- Feb 21** Mardi Gras TBA Clubhouse
- Mar 8** Senior Dinner 1:00 pm Clubhouse
- Mar 15** Theater Party 2:00 pm Alpena Civic Theatre
- Mar 19** Potluck 5:00 pm Clubhouse
- Apr 11** Easter Egg Hunt Clubhouse

If you are interested in helping with any of these activities or have suggestions for additional activities, call Marilyn Kettler at 595-6362. All workers are welcome!!  
 Check out the events Calendar online at  
[www.presqueisleharbor.org](http://www.presqueisleharbor.org)