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Finland MN Historical Society Plans Future

By Kitty Mayo

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Since 1986 volunteers in and around Finland, Minnesota have been working to preserve a piece of history, and this year they are opening their doors to new members and curious folk.

This year the Finland Historical Society's annual meeting will be held on January 9th, and the gathering is free and open to the public. Mabel Waxlax Tarlton is the featured speaker, and she will be sharing first hand experiences of growing up on Lax Lake, which was named using the second syllable of her ancestors last name.

"There are a lot of awesome stories to tell, and right now there are still people around to tell those stories," said Finland Historical Society member Greg Hanson.

Snacks and refreshments will be served at the meeting, and Hanson says that all are welcome.

"Anyone interested in listening to Mabel talk about the history of Lax Lake, everybody in the community is invited," said Hanson.

For those who want to join the Historical Society, a \$20 annual membership fee is asked, giving members newsletters, and free access to all the resources at the historical

The FHS organizes events throughout the year, including the Tori Music Festival in the summer, and the Pikku Joulu (Finnish Christmas celebration). The Heritage Site has a museum, gift shop, sauna, blacksmith

shop and John Pine homestead.

In addition to being a central part of the Finland community, Hanson says that the historical site gives visitors a destination to come into the area that benefits the local economy and businesses.

"We've got a very diverse history in Finland, and we want to leave that as a legacy to our kids, grandkids, and greatgrandkids," Hanson said.

New current and upcoming projects for the FHS include a complete electronic cataloguing of every artifact, developing a ten-year plan, and working through the StEPs (Standards and Excellence Program) process. StEPs is designed for historical organizations to assess their standards and increase professionalism in historical preservation.

Hanson says that the FHS is also currently taking applications for a new site host for next summer. After 11 years, the previous site host will not be returning, leaving a great opportunity for someone with an RV or camper (hook-ups provided) to look over the site during next summer. Interested individuals can contact Hanson at: (218)226-4998.

To learn more about the FHS check out their website at: https:// finlandmnhistoricalsociety.com/.

The annual meeting will be held at the Clair Nelson Center on Tuesday, January 9th, beginning at 7:00 pm.

Bear Expert Lynn Rogers Says Fear **Makes Bears Bite**

By Kitty Mayo

For the first time ever documented in Lake County, Minn. a black bear has attacked humans. According to experts, black bear attacks are extremely rare in northern Minnesota where the MNDNR says there are roughly 20,000 black bears.

A week ago last Tuesday morning, a 150pound male black bear attacked a dog and three people in two consecutive incidents near Isabella.

Lake County sheriff and MNDNR Conservation officers were called to the scene after the attacks to track and kill the

"Fear is what makes bears bite. You don't want to startle or corner a bear," Lynn Rogers stated. Rogers has spent his long biologist career studying black bears, is instrumental in the North American Bear Center in Ely, Minn., and has developed many trusting relationships with wild bears.

Concerned that an incident like this could create undue fear in the public, Rogers says that the key is sharing as much information

as possible.

wolves.

"I believe it's the duty of the DNR to thoroughly investigate this and have the full story so people can understand it better," Rogers said.

He says that information gained from examining the carcass of the bear is important, but even more so, he says that what triggered the event.

Disappointed that tracking did not go all the way back to where the bear had denned, Rogers says key facts may be missing.

While the necropsy will likely determine if the bear had been attacked, Rogers is guessing that the bear did have injuries from

wolves. Rogers says that the DNR did backtrack the bear until "his tracks were lost in a mass of wolf tracks", a possible indication

according to Rogers that the bear had been

chased from hibernation in its den by the

Applications Being Accepted for Emergency Food, Utility and Shelter Funding

submitted by: Taylor Holm, MSW, LGSW Community Partners, Executive Director

Cook and Lake Counties have been awarded \$5,600 federal funds made available through the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency under the **Emergency Food and Shelter National** Board Program. Local agencies can apply for the funds to supplement emergency food, utility and shelter programs in Cook and Lake Counties by January 3, 2018.

The selection was made by a National Board that is chaired by the U. S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and consists of representatives from American Red Cross; Catholic Charities, USA; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA; The Jewish Federations of North America, The Salvation Army; and, United Way Worldwide. The Local Board was charged to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high-need areas around the country.

A Local Board made up of community representatives will determine how the funds awarded to Lake and Cook Counties are to be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local service agencies in the area. The Local Board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds and any additional funds available under this phase of the program.

Under the terms of the grant from the National Board, local agencies chosen to receive funds must:

- 1) be private voluntary non-profits or units of government
- 2) be eligible to receive Federal funds
- 3) have an accounting system 4) practice nondiscrimination
- 5) have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs,
- 6) if they are a private voluntary organization, have a voluntary board. Qualifying agencies are urged to apply and must be able to spend down award amounts by January 31, 2018.

Please contact Taylor Holm at commpart@frontiernet.net or call 218-834-8024 for information or an application. Application Deadline: 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 3, 2018.

"One of the victims of the attack told me that there had been a lot of wolves in the area lately, and since it is so unusual for a bear to be walking around this time of year, it likely was rousted out (of its den) by a pack of wolves," said Rogers.

There is precedence for wolves to hunt

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