



Mackinaw Area Historical Society eNewsletter February/March, 2017

A belated welcome to the new year. As the new President of the Mackinaw Area Historical Society, I am challenged with an ambitious plan for the organization in 2017 and appreciate all the support shown to date. In March we have two fun events to kick off the year. Saturday, March 11, 2017, from 1 – 5:00 p.m., Keith Knecht from Cheboygan will demonstrate a Native American Sugar Bush camp at Heritage Village. A Sugar Bush is a forest stand of Maples that is used to gather sap and process it into sugars and syrup. This exciting event will illustrate techniques for tapping Maple trees, using Native American style equipment, gathering sap and processing it into sugar and candy. It promises to be a free hands-on educational and enjoyable afternoon demonstrating historic techniques.

Cabin Fever is defined variably as an isolated feeling or restlessness from extensive time spent in a confined area or indoors. On Sunday, March 12 our annual Cabin Fever Dinner at Audie's restaurant from 5 – 7:00 p.m. will be held. Ten-dollar tickets are available at Coffman's Hardware or from MAHS board members. It is always a great evening with good food and conversation to alleviate, rather than celebrate, Cabin Fever. Another focus in March will be planning for the annual Plowing of the Fields event in May, the Historical Festival in August and other exciting projects over the coming year. One new project is underway to create an exhibit about the railroad presence in the Mackinaw City area and the transportation of trains across the Straits of Mackinac. The exhibit will be housed in a new waterfront restaurant near the Icebreaker Mackinaw site, scheduled to open this Spring. All of this is only possible with a crew of dedicated volunteers that are committed to investing time and talent. I look forward to working with everyone to accomplishing our ambitious goals.

*I love people who harness themselves, an ox to a heavy cart,
who pull like the water buffalo, with massive patience,
who strain in the mud and the muck to move things forward,
who do what has to be done, again and again.*

Excerpted from the poem To be of use by Marge Piercy

(Please take no offense, the "ox and the water buffalo" are metaphors not real comparisons but the "mud and the muck" are dangerously close to our reality).

Sincerely,

Catherine Freebairn
MAHS President

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