On to Québec Presentation by Thomas Tocco

The Chippewa County Historical Society will hold its January general meeting at Bayliss Public Library on Wednesday, January 27, at 7 p.m. Thomas Tocco, a historical re-enactor, amateur historian, and CCHS Board member, will speak about On to Québec!: 1775 Politics, Religion and the Military Expedition to Make Canada the 14th State. He will tell the story of the Continental Congress and the fledgling Continental Army's attempt to bring Canada (Province of Québec) into the Revolutionary cause against the most powerful country in the world, Great Britain. From brilliant military maneuvers to forces hopelessly lost in wilderness swamps, Thomas will tell stories of heroism, cowardice, political and religious turmoil, along with the what-ifs and what actually happened during the 1775 campaign in Canada. The program is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be provided. Bayliss Public Library, an affiliate of Superior District Library, is located at 541 Library Drive in Sault Ste. Marie. Please enter by the library’s main entrance as the rest of the library will be closed that evening.

Open House on January 30

CCHS will be open on Saturday, January 30, from 1-4 p.m. for a special Open House during the 1st Annual Downtown Winter Ice Festival. It will be your last chance this season to see the model train and Barbie doll displays. The gift shop will be open and there will be refreshments. You may park on Ashmun Street or in our parking lot at the back of our building off of Portage Avenue.
**Holiday Open Houses**  
By Ginny Cymbalist

115 Ashmun Street was a very active place during the Downtown Sault Ste. Marie Holiday Open Houses in December. For two Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., visitors enjoyed watching model trains, viewing a display of Barbie doll accessories, and shopping in our gift shop. More than 100 people visited the first day and that number doubled on the second Saturday. For many this was their first visit to our building.

All this does not happen easily. Carolyn Person organized the clearing of space for the displays. Dennis Hank and Gil Cymbalist spent many hours planning and setting up a train display that gets larger and better each year. This year it expanded into our new window for easy viewing from outside. Dennis even crafted a flashing railroad crossing sign to put on the sidewalk, which got a lot of attention. Cherie and Tom Tocco spent a great deal of time setting up a display of Cherie’s amazing collection of Barbie doll paraphernalia. Just finding the space for it all was a challenge. Mary June, Karen Sabatine, Tom and Cherie Tocco and Ginny Cymbalist decorated. Karen, Ginny, and Mary organized and served the food and Jim Dwyer took photographs. To get a feel for the excitement of the day see the YouTube video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nz6xPBYXtio. The faces of the children say it all.

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**Façade Restoration Project Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**  
By Paul Sabourin

On Tuesday, November 10, the official ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on the steps of 115 Ashmun Street, home of CCHS. The event was scheduled to mark the completion of a five-month façade restoration project.

In the company of representatives from the Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors, CCHS Board members
witnessed our President, Mary M. June doing the honor. In attendance were over eighty-five participants representing our City officials, Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Board members, contractors, CCHS members, and the general public.

The gala event included greetings and comments from Justin Knepper, Executive Director of the DDA, Craig Pope, Contract Foreman with the firm of Pullman SST, as well as Bob Tracy, Engineer in charge from Restoration Engineering Tech. An open house/reception was held afterwards, with tours of the building and viewing of various displays, showing the progress of the restoration.

The façade is now in pristine condition, with new windows, parapet, cornice, re-pointed and cleaned stonework, as well as repaired steps and entryway. Our historical building, dating back to 1889 when it was built by Governor Chase S. Osborn as his News Building, has a new lease on life thanks to the funding received from the Federal Housing and Urban Development – Community Development Block Grant.

CCHS has a final commitment to repay the matching funds secured from a loan with Old Mission Bank. The fundraising campaign was launched last year, with over half of the amount already received and paid for. With your generous donations, we can meet our goal and continue our progress to renovate the interior.

Sault News Features
By Paul Sabourin

In 1968, the City of Sault Ste. Marie was celebrating its Tercentenary. This anniversary was marked with numerous ceremonies and events to commemorate our rich history.

Our community is the first established entity in the State of Michigan, thus recognized as the “Birthplace of Michigan.”

On the Streets Where We Live

In 1968, the City of Sault Ste. Marie was celebrating its Tercentenary. This anniversary was marked with numerous ceremonies and events to commemorate our rich history.

Our community is the first established entity in the State of Michigan, thus recognized as the “Birthplace of Michigan.”
As part of the fanfare from that era, one special project has been revisited and highlighted by CCHS over the past two years. In cooperation with the staff of the Evening News, now referred to as the Sault News, weekly featured articles have been printed about the naming of our streets. This originated from a booklet published by the seventh grade students of Sault Junior High School, entitled On the Streets Where We Live: A History of the Streets and Avenues of Sault Ste. Marie. The project was completed under the supervision of Steven R. Malmberg and Robert P. Aldrich, Instructors.

The content features a dedication to Margaret L. Conlon, librarian for the Anna Helen Morse School Library, acknowledgements to Gale Gleason, promoter from the High School staff, compliments to City Engineer Robert Collier, congratulations from City Manager Richard Larsen, as well as a preface from former Mayor James Robertson and recognition from the then Mayor John O. Harrington.

The final complimentary notation is dedicated to the 156 students in the eight separate seventh grades of 1968 listed in the booklet. There is also special recognition to John Tygart who did the pen and ink illustrations and Madeline Victor as student editor, for her proofreading and correcting. The back cover is a reproduction of the official city flag designed by ten-year-old Dennis Quack. This booklet is available to view in the Steere Room at Bayliss Public Library, an affiliate of the Superior District Library, and in the archives of the Chippewa County Historical Society.

From January to May 2015, the newspaper featured numerous articles starting with Jean Nicolet. The ensuing series started again in November 2015 and will continue until March 2016. Readers have been able to acquaint themselves with over 21 individuals, whose names appear on street signs throughout the city. There will still be the opportunity to read about some more of our pioneers over the next few months. If you wish to acquaint yourself with the articles, you may log on to the CCHS website www.cchsmi.com and click on “Articles” in the main menu.

Sandstone Architecture Talk

Kathryn Eckert, a Michigan architectural historian and historic preservationist, spoke about the Sandstone Architecture of the Lake Superior Region to about 25 attendees at CCHS’s October general meeting held at 115 Ashmun Street. With the project restoring CCHS’s sandstone and brick façade having just been completed, it was an appropriate celebration. Eckert spoke about the geology of the area and showed other examples of sandstone architecture in the U.P. as well as prominent buildings in the Sault. Her book, The Sandstone Architecture of the Lake Superior Region, was available for purchase and signing.

History Camp 2016
By Ginny Cymbalist

Board members Patty Olsen and Ginny Cymbalist are, once again, planning an exciting History Camp experience for students finishing grades 3 through 6 (ages 9 through 12). This year’s camp will be held from June 20-24 and will feature activities involving the history of Sault Ste. Marie and field trips to local places of historic interest. We are again fortunate to have received a grant from MCACA (Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs) which will enable us to keep the cost for the week at $75 per student with some scholarships being available. If you would like further information or to reserve a space please, contact Ginny Cymbalist at 906-632-9523 or ggcymbalist@yahoo.com.

Docents Needed
By Ginny Cymbalist

The Historic Water Street buildings—the Johnston, Schoolcraft, and Baraga homes and the Kemp Industrial Museum—are owned by the City of Sault Ste. Marie who contracts with CCHS to operate the buildings, hire and train docents, create exhibits, and supply artifacts. A committee of interested docents and CCHS members has been formed to work on updating and improving displays. This committee, headed by Joseph Gallagher, has some wonderful ideas which we hope to slowly implement. There are many exciting changes in the works so make sure to plan a visit to the buildings between Engineer’s Day and Labor Day.

Being a docent on Water Street is a great way to share the history of our city with locals and visitors alike and one even
receives some pay. One needn’t know a great deal of local history; the only attribute necessary is excitement and a willingness to learn. A docent training manual is available as well as expert guidance from local historians. To find out more about being a docent, please contact CCHS (906-635-7082 or cchs@sault.com) or Ginny Cymbalist (906-632-9523 or ggymbalist@yahoo.com).

Period Clothing Workshops

The City of Sault Ste. Marie owns and operates the buildings on Historic Water Street (HWS)—the John Johnston, Henry Rowe Schoolcraft, and Bishop Baraga Homes, and the Kemp Industrial Museum. The City contracts with CCHS to supply and train docents, provide artifacts/furniture for the buildings, and plan all programming and exhibits. At the present time, three of the buildings (Johnston, Baraga, and Kemp) are open for viewing with docents every afternoon from Engineers Day through Labor Day. In the future it is planned that the Schoolcraft Home will also be staffed with a docent. In the summer of 2015 there were twelve docents who staffed the buildings.

Period clothing is needed for the docents. Because these buildings represent four distinct periods of Sault Ste. Marie history and there are both male and female docents of all ages, providing this clothing will be a complicated process. The plan is to host two several day period-clothing sewing workshops with up to eight local seamstresses led by Chris Irwin from Port Huron, a well-known, experienced re-enactor and supplier of period clothing with expertise in the periods represented by our homes. The workshops will likely be held in the spring. CCHS has received grants from the Roberts P. and Ella B. Hudson Foundation ($1,000) and the City of Sault Ste. Marie’s Chase S. Osborn Trust ($1,500) for this purpose.

The finished clothing will be owned by CCHS and used for Society sponsored events such as Rendezvous in the Sault, Summer History Camp, and re-enactments on Historic Water Street and elsewhere.

New in Our Gift Shop

Mike McCarthy’s book, The Sounds and Smells of My Childhood: Growing Up in the Soo’s East End in the 1950s, is now available from CCHS’s gift shop. The book is described as “a short, lovely memoir of the author’s childhood, based on the song/poem written by David Mallet, “‘I Knew This Place.’” A place that was unique, very historic, and very loving, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, was a hustling and bustling community in the 1950s. All predictions were it would become the next Chicago. The Sounds and Smells of My Childhood is a nostalgic journey. It brings the reader back in time to that place of their own youth, of fond memories, of laughter and tears.”

You may send us a check for the cost of the book ($15 for soft cover and $21 for hard cover), along with $4 shipping and handling and MI tax if mailed to a Michigan address. You may go to our website www.cchsmi.com and order the book through PayPal. Or you may call us or stop by during office hours and charge it to your credit card. Proceeds from the sale of the book go to benefit the Soo Theatre Project.

Promoting History

By Carolyn Person

Since you are a member of CCHS, you have an interest in history. It’s a huge topic so we will narrow it down to Sault Ste. Marie and area, which is another loosely defined term. The mission of CCHS is to preserve local history and this is where we need you, the members, to help. With each passing day, we lose part of that history, whether it is a person, building, business, or even an inanimate object. Perhaps you know of a relative or neighbor that likes to reminisce about “the good ole days”: places where they worked, life on the farm, or growing up in the Soo. Oral history interviews are a colorful and interesting way to record these stories. Many people are more comfortable talking than trying to write down something. CCHS is interested in talking to people and chronicling these adventures and stories.

What is history? Something that no longer exists? Something in the past? Something only remembered? Something not used anymore? An old way of doing a task? This is why it is
so difficult to describe to anyone just what it is that could be donated to the CCHS archives. Paper, objects, stories or pictures? How far into the past? Current definition of “antique” is 50 years or older! Hmm that makes some of us—well, anyway…

Have you tucked away some bits of Soo history and come to realize family members are not really interested in storing some of these treasures? You could put such treasures out at a yard sale, sell items on Brimley Sales, OR donate mementos to the Historical Society where they will be preserved for future, caring generations. That dusty old thing may complete a story, provide a missing piece, or be a display item that will spark many conversations or memories.

Does your organization have scrapbooks and a collection of papers and awards that no longer has a home? CCHS can archive those items. Keep in mind that the collection will be accessible to the public for viewing and research. Be an active contributor to the heritage of Sault Ste. Marie and Chippewa County.

StoryCorps

One of our members suggested that StoryCorps is a great way of recording your family’s stories. Go to www.storycorps.org, click on Record at the top, and you will find an App to download, sample interview questions, and other advice.

Report from Collections
By Carolyn Person

2015 was a good year for CCHS collections. We acquired the Fred and Audrey Warth Collection of bottles recovered from the St. Marys River. All 350 artifacts have been cataloged and photographed. There have been 150 donations over the year of all kinds of items relating to Sault Ste. Marie and Chippewa County. All donations are cataloged and photographed and placed in storage.

The undertaking for the early part of 2016 will be to enter all the catalog information into our database. Kathy Newcomb, Dawn Aldrich, Ken Randall, and Mike Bennett have assisted in this cataloging adventure.

We are looking for additional computers to facilitate our database work. If anyone has purchased new computers and doesn’t know what to do with their old machines, CCHS would welcome any donations. In order for the database to function, the machine must have XP or Windows 7 capabilities.

At this time of year, people are cleaning out their closets, getting ready to downsize or just wondering why they are keeping all this “stuff”. Our collection includes photos, archives of some of the social clubs of the area, clothing, mementos of past city activities (Centennials), businesses (yes, even old receipts and shopping bags), family histories and dear knows what else. If you know people who are moving, please let them know that CCHS is gathering items for historical purposes.

The façade restoration project has generated interest in our downtown history. People are asking about old businesses, histories of the buildings, and, of course, old photos. The society can scan information and return the original to the owner. Preserving the past makes history.

Historic Churches

St. James Episcopal Church, the Central Methodist Church, and the Salvation Army Citadel plan to participate in the Historic Churches of Sault Ste. Marie programming this summer. Would you like to assist with the program planning? We need you. Please speak to Rev. Bob Aldrich or contact the CCHS office.

Bayliss Library’s Microfilm Scanner/Reader Fundraiser

Most researchers of history and genealogy have at one time or another used the microfilm machines at Bayliss Library to view microfilm reels of area newspapers, city directories, or other records. The library owns over 130 years of microfilmed Sault and area newspapers and the collection is growing every year. Currently, Bayliss Library is holding a fundraiser to purchase an ST Imaging ViewScan III microfilm reader/scanner machine to replace its current machines that are old and hard to maintain and find supplies for.

Over $9,000 is needed to purchase a state-of-the-art machine. So far the library has raised nearly $5,300 from area banks, credit unions, the City’s Osborn Trust, the Hudson Foundation, the Friends of the Library, and individuals. The full list will be announced once the machine is purchased and a sign produced.

If you are interested in donating to the library, please make out your check to Bayliss Public Library, affiliate of Superior District Library, 541 Library Drive, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.
Thank you to the following:

**New Member:**
William Hamilton III

**Renewals:**
Joseph Gallagher
James & Kathleen Hendricks
Susan James
Steve R. Kail
Justin Knepper
Audrey LeLievre
Mary Paterson
Frances Pruess
Lawrence Rice
Paul & Margo Sabourin
Deidre Stevens
Thomas & Cherie Tocco
Jeanne Tubman & Dave Ripley
Donna J. White
Don Wilson Insurance

**Façade Project:**
Pat Egan
Mary June
Carolyn Person
Karen Sabatine
Don Wilson Insurance

**WANTED:**

**Sault High Football Articles**

Coach Jim Casey is seeking information on Sault High Football players from 1918 to the present. He is especially interested in articles on those players who were recognized as being outstanding in the following years: 1955-56, 1963, 1975, 1999, 2006-7, 2012-13, and 2015. Please contact him at 906-440-7319.

**WANTED:**

Your email address in order for us to communicate more frequently and efficiently with you. You may email us at cchs@sault.com or provide your email address when you renew your membership. Thanks!

**Volunteers:**
Dawn Aldrich, Bernie Arbic, Mike Bennett, Roger Blanchard, Ginny & Gil Cymbalist, Shawn & Mindy Durham, Jim Dwyer, Caroline Grabowski, Dennis Hank, Susan James, Mary M. June, Marian MacLeod, Kathy Newcomb, Patty Olsen, Shirley Patrick, Carolyn Person, Ken Randall, Karen Sabatine, Paul Sabourin, Dee Stevens, Tom & Cherie Tocco

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Susan James, Paul Sabourin, Ginny Cymbalist, Carolyn Person, Tom Tocco

**Newsletter Designer:**
Connie Thompson

**Board Members:**
Mary M. June, President
Susan James, Vice President, Programs and Publications
Paul Sabourin, Vice President, Membership and Fundraising
Bernie Arbic, Treasurer
Virginia Cymbalist, Secretary

Robert Aldrich, Jim Dwyer, Caroline Grabowski, Dennis Hank, Patty Olsen, Carolyn Person, Janet Russell, Karen Sabatine, Cherie Tocco, Tom Tocco

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Photo courtesy of Jim Dwyer
YES! I want to be a CCHS Member!

Membership Rates

- Individual: $20
- Family: $30
- Student: $10
- Senior: $10
- Contributing: $50
- Business/Corporate/Org.: $50
- Lifetime: $200+
- New Millennium: $1000+
- Additional Donation: $_____
- Façade Project: $_____

Name ____________________________________________
Address ____________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
City ___________________________ State ___________ Zip ____________________________
Email ____________________________________________

Please keep me in mind for:  ☐ Volunteer Work   ☐ Board Member

Make checks payable to: Chippewa County Historical Society, P.O. Box 342, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Upcoming Events

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and by appointment at back door

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Gift Shop Hours:
Open by appointment.

Soo Locks Park
Water Street
Ashmun Street
Portage Avenue

Office Hours:
Monday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
and by appointment

Gift Shop Hours:
Open by appointment.