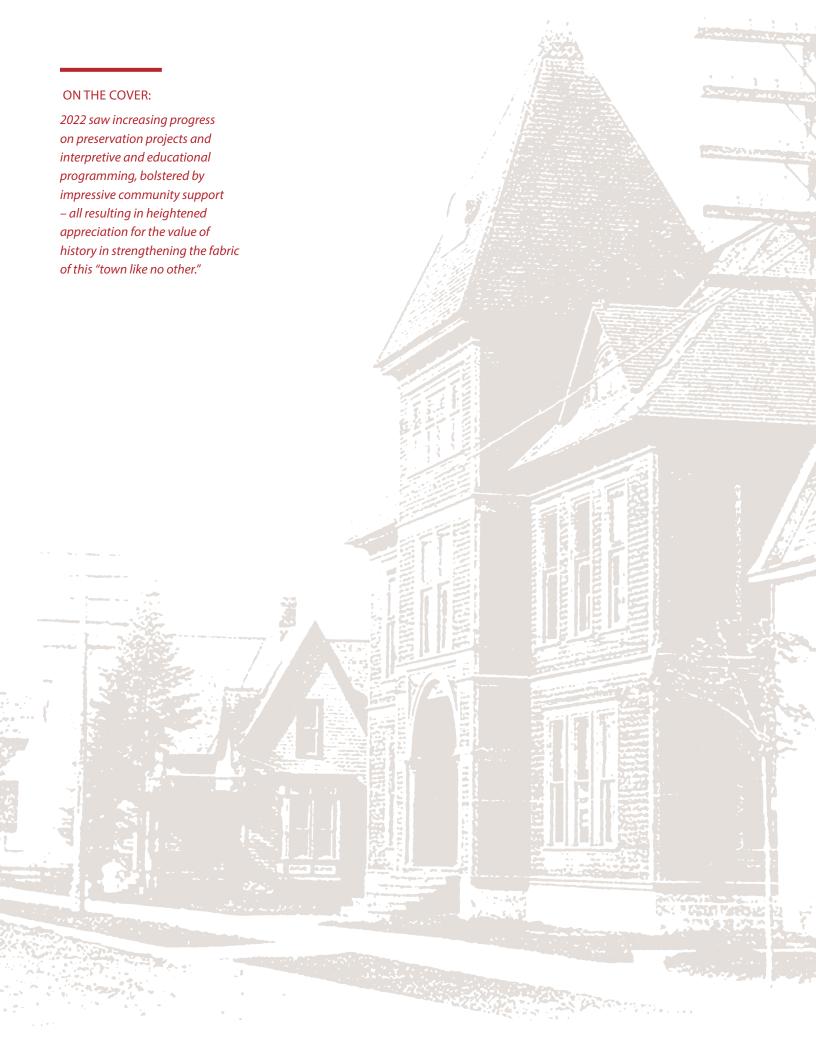




"What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others." 2022 OVERVIEW AND REPORT TO DONORS



# STEWARDING OUR HISTORICAL RESOURCES

The history of Harbor Springs represents a small, yet rich, example of the settlement and generational growth of Michigan and the Midwest. Beginning in 1990, the Harbor Springs Area Historical Society has both stewarded and promoted that compelling history and the lessons it can impart to an appreciative public.

It should be apparent on the following pages of this report that 2022 was a highly successful year for the historical society and, by extension, for the fabric of our greater Harbor Springs community. I attribute this success to one overriding reason: the support in all manners from a thoughtful, caring group of individuals who understand the value of our town's distinctive heritage.

However, even for an organization focused on the past, we understand the power in moving forward. To that end, in 2018 the historical society embarked on a transformational \$3 million fundraising campaign – "Bringing

History to Life" – with the dual goals of developing a Harbor Springs historical corridor and building a preservation and operational endowment.

The emerging corridor sits at the eastern approach to Main Street, anchored by two significant buildings – the unique hexagonal home of noted Harbor Springs resident and inventor Ephraim Shay and the 1886 former city hall, which since 2008 has served as the home of the Harbor Springs History Museum.

To serve as a solid foundation for meaningful storytelling, both buildings require significant capital funding – to restore and install exciting experiential exhibits in the Shay House and to undertake essential preservation repairs and technology-driven gallery updates in the museum.



Through the leadership of an effective volunteer campaign cabinet, we passed the \$2 million mark of our \$3 million fundraising goal in December 2022, allowing us to work steadily on the preservation and transformation of the Shay House into a new museum of innovation.

But, even as we devoted much effort to the campaign, our volunteer board of trustees undertook a comprehensive strategic planning process, culminating in the new mission and vision statements that appear on the inside back cover. And, our small (but mighty) staff presented a full menu of programming – from new and engaging History Talks to an acclaimed exhibit on Prohibition to

the 10th anniversary celebration of our signature event, Blessing of the Fleet.

This year promises to be just as compelling. We are in the homestretch of the campaign and once again look forward to sharing stories and interpretation of Harbor Springs history, highlighted by a fascinating exhibit on the early years of our resort associations.

We hope those who treasure our small town traditions and character will join us in celebrating the positive and lasting contributions the society made to our heritage in 2022. On behalf of our board of trustees, our volunteers and professional staff, thank you sincerely for your steadfast support. Your gifts of time and treasure, however large or small, are appreciated. Together, we are saving history!

**Kristyn Balog** Executive Director, May 2023

# 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

#### MISSION CRITICAL

To paraphrase author and motivational speaker Zig Ziglar, "Outstanding (organizations) have one thing in common: an absolute sense of mission."

To that end, the historical society board of trustees adopted new mission, vision and values statements in December/ January, culminating an extensive six-month strategic planning process. The statements can be found on the inside back cover of this report.

# The board also laid out strategic objectives for the next three years:

- Financial stability
- Expanded programming for all assets (History Museum, Shay Innovation Museum, Aha boat, Shay locomotive)
- Build recognition, awareness and attendance
- Ensure sustainable staffing for the long life of the society

#### CAMPAIGN SURPASSES \$2M MARK!

The comprehensive fundraising campaign for the Harbor Springs historical corridor, "Bringing History to Life," topped the \$2 million mark of its \$3 million goal in December.

Led by a volunteer campaign cabinet chaired by Ann Baruch and David Lyle, the entire effort is set to wind up by the end of 2023.

#### Major campaign goals include:

- Restoration and exhibit design of the Shay House for conversion to a museum of innovation (\$1.8 million)
- Preservation maintenance and exhibit upgrades in the History Museum (\$700,000)
- Creation of a preservation and operating endowment (\$500,000)

Critical funds are still needed. To contribute – in any amount – to "Bringing History to Life," contact Kristyn Balog at 231-526-9771.



#### SHAY HOUSE PRESERVATION PROGRESSES

Preservation of the Ephraim Shay House took center stage in 2022, as funds raised through the Bringing History to Life campaign addressed critical needs, resulting in:

- Main level and tower windows replaced
- Original stone foundation reinforced and sealed
- Water management and drainage improved
- Exterior siding repaired and painted
- Energy-efficient climate control system installed
- Bay Street garden retaining wall stabilized
- Interior staircase improvements
- Bathroom expansion for ADA accessibility

Pending funding, interior structural work on the Shay House will be completed in preparation for new exhibit design and installation in 2024. (Exhibit design work will begin on the History Museum this fall.)

Transformation of the steel-stamped hexagonal building into a museum of innovation commenced in partnership with professional exhibit designers, who produced the first set of conceptual drawings.

Outside spaces were also addressed as Main Street and Bay Street garden plans were commissioned from a local landscape architect.

Preliminary plans call for the museum to open in 2024.



### LOCOMOTIVE RESTORATION STEAMS AHEAD

The historical society and train enthusiasts are raising funds in real time to restore a major new historical asset, a 1907 36-ton Shay Locomotive donated in 2021 to the society by Stephen F. Austin State University in Texas. The iconic log-hauling engine is undergoing a major overhaul by students at the Industrial Arts Institute in Onaway, the

same organization that performed restoration work on the all-steel *Aha* boat, now on display in Shay Park.

The locomotive body and running gear have been sandblasted, revealing key brass fittings. The next step, funding permitting, is preparation of a reconstruction timeline that will include reassembly and fabrication of a new wood cab.

### WINDOWS TO THE PAST

Thanks to a grant from Great Lakes Energy's People Fund, the society was able to replace and repair sheathing on two semi-circular "brow" (dormer) windows on the third floor of the



History Museum facing Main Street. Both windows had developed leaks, which threatened the society's archival storage room on the second floor.

The History Museum is housed in a building constructed in 1886 as a county courthouse by Charles Caskey, who would soon after build the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island. Ongoing preservation needs and new interactive exhibit installations in the History Museum are funding goals of the society's "Bringing History to Life" campaign.

#### **GRANTING MORE WISHES**

The historical society received several grants in 2022 in addition to the Great Lakes Energy's People Fund. The Michigan Arts and Culture Council awarded \$4,000 for a new Blessing of the Fleet exhibit, supporting original commissioned artwork by local artist Trisha Witty. The Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation awarded \$5,800 for program printing and signage. And the Petoskey Area Visitors Bureau awarded grants for Shay Days (\$1,000) and Blessing of the Fleet (\$500), allowing expansion of these multi-day events.



#### AHA RESTORATION WINS "GEM" AWARD

The historical society's *Aha* Ship Restoration Project won the 2022 Gem Award from the Michigan Historic Preservation Network for restoration of a historically significant structure or object. The award was presented at the network's annual meeting in Holly, Michigan.

The ship Aha, a 50-foot steel watercraft, was built in the 1890s by Ephraim Shay, the inventor of an innovative geared locomotive and resident of Harbor Springs. In his retirement, Shay operated machine and blacksmith shops, built a railroad line and constructed the city's first waterworks.

Long abandoned and washed up on the shore of Lake Michigan, the derelict *Aha* was restored beginning in 2019 in a partnership with the Industrial Arts Institute in Onaway and returned to the site of its original construction, now Shay Park, in June 2021, where it is on permanent exhibit.

Financially the project was supported through in-kind services, individual contributions and grant funds. Local residents and civic leaders were especially encouraging and supported the initiative from the beginning.



# BLESSING OF THE FLEET SAILS INTO 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

The Harbor Springs Area Historical Society celebrated the 10th anniversary of its signature event in 2022 with a new festival of activities, "Fleet Week," in collaboration with the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, the Isle Royale Queen III and the Maritime Heritage Alliance, and with support from the U.S. Coast Guard. Highlights included a History Talk on Great Lakes Coast Guard cutters, educational programming aboard a replica schooner and exclusive tours of two historic yachts, *Canim* and *Elegante*.

Founded by *Canim* and *Elegante* owners Lisa Sutter and Pat Anton, respectively, in 2012 as a fundraiser for the historical society, the Blessing of the Fleet saw tremendous growth during the five-year tenure of retiring chairperson Sharon Mihalik, capped by a record \$125,000 raised in 2022.

The varied events pay tribute to local waterfront and area maritime traditions and the native fishing industry. All proceeds benefit the preservation, interpretation and educational mission of the historical society.



#### SHAY DAYS ATTRACTS HUNDREDS

Shay Days celebrated its 24th anniversary in July, attracting hundreds of adults and children. The two-day family-focused event centered around Shay Park, featuring live model steam trains, instructional games and crafts. Two special models in the History Museum presented the

physics of artesian wells and the creativity of 1880s logging transportation methods. As always, volunteer participation was key to a successful weekend.

#### MORE THAN SMALL TALK

The society's Harbor History Talk lecture series hit new highs in 2022. Twenty-two programs were presented in a mix of in-person (History Museum) and Zoom formats, resulting in a 10% increase in participants. Topics ranged from Waganakising Quillwork to Great Lakes shipwrecks to Prohibition at the Grand Hotel.

#### GENEALOGY WORKSHOPS ROLLED OUT

Program Coordinator Beth Wemigwase offered several well-attended Genealogy Workshops in 2022 for members and interested individuals in the early stages of family research, including tips on how to use Ancestry.com. The society's subscription allows access to international records and other tools. In addition, the society offers complimentary sessions to members by appointment for more in-depth study.

#### WE WANTED BEER!

A 2022 exhibit at the Harbor Springs History Museum, "Dry Harbor: Prohibition, Gambling and Gangsters in Harbor Springs" presented a fascinating look at local activity surrounding the countrywide Prohibition era. Its popularity showed up in visitation numbers, which increased 16% over the previous year's exhibit.

The Harbor Springs area experienced a healthy share of bootlegging, speakeasies and casinos for the 15 years Emmet County was dry (Michigan had passed a statewide prohibition law beginning in 1918), complete with elaborate delivery schemes, underground escape tunnels and even connections to Detroit's notorious Purple Gang.



The exhibit, curated by Program Coordinator Beth Wemigwase, included such original artifacts as the iron gate to the basement tunnel entrance to Slim's Speakeasy below Club Manitou and two vintage one-armed bandits (slot machines).

#### HISTORY WAS ON TAP

History on Tap was a unique public event that mixed a history talk presentation with a beer tasting and exhibit opening. Guests were able to sample great beers from the Petoskey Brewing Company while touring the special exhibit, "Dry Harbor: Prohibition, Gambling and Gangsters in Harbor Springs." During the second half of the evening, guests were treated to presentations by both Tyler Gostinger of Petoskey Brewing and Patti Smith, author of "Michigan Beer."



#### STARTING THEM YOUNG

Program coordinator and curator Beth Wemigwase visited the second grade classes of Shay Elementary in April 2022 with retired teacher and former trustee Jan McDonald to teach the children about Ephraim Shay, for whom their school was named. After a field trip to the museum, Beth returned later in May to talk to the same students about artesian wells, the natural history of Harbor Springs and how the wells influenced the town's name.

Third graders visited the museum to learn about primary and secondary sources, and uncover how history research is conducted and what stories artifacts can tell us about the past.

Finally, local 4th graders were treated to a tour of the Little Traverse Lighthouse on Harbor Point to learn about lighthouses, Great Lakes maritime heritage and the history of Harbor Springs.

#### **DIGGING INTO HISTORY**

The Historical
Society welcomed
some 100 visitors of
all ages to a newly
created educational
experience at the
History Museum,
"Digging History,"
for two days in
December. Young



historians got the chance to dig through a sandbox filled with hidden artifacts to learn how – and why – archaeologists work to uncover objects from the past. Each object they uncovered and identified from a provided guide led to a craft and worksheet to allow them to use their imaginations to explore the story each artifact told.

#### TO MARKET, TO MARKET

The historical society and the Harbor Springs Farmers Market presented an indoor Holiday Market in November and December at the History Museum on Main Street. Shoppers stocked up on local foods for holiday meals and one-of-a-kind history-inspired gifts from a dozen vendors as well as goods and crafts from local artisans.

The historical society created notecard packs featuring a classic 1930 photograph of the downtown Harbor Springs tree lighting, which became a sought-after gift in the Museum Store.

#### BLACKBIRD MUSEUM OPENS ITS DOORS



Believed to be the oldest surviving structure in Harbor Springs (c. 1858), the city-owned Blackbird House museum is located in the emerging Main

Street historical corridor, next to the historical society's Shay House and across the street from the History Museum.

With inspiration from the Historical Society, the city has a goal of redesigning the Blackbird Museum's exhibits – both

the original post office and the Odawa collection – into a more in-depth presentation of Native American history. The city also plans to undertake essential building repairs and restoration work.

As the first step, the historical society reopened the museum for the city in July during Shay Days, and through December welcomed nearly 300 visitors ranging from the local area to states as far away as Texas, Colorado, South Carolina, Vermont and even Canada.

Society staff consulted with exhibit designers and preservation architects to assess the project and estimate potential costs and a timeframe for completion.

#### NEW HANDS ON DECK

Geoff Upward was appointed to a newly created part-time position, Deputy Director, in January 2022. Prior to joining the society staff, Upward served for 17 years as executive director of Meadow Brook



Geoff Upward and Amanda Smith

Hall in Rochester, Michigan, before his retirement in January 2021. He also worked in communications and marketing leadership roles at Oakland University. A published author, Upward holds an undergraduate degree in history from Albion College and a master's in journalism from the University of Missouri.

Amanda Smith joined the Harbor Springs Area Historical Society as its new Office Manager in July, replacing longtime historical society office manager Judy VanAvery, who retired. Smith was previously employed at the Harbor Cove Condominium Homeowners Association and also worked at Fifth Third Bank of Petoskey in the Trust and Investments Department. She holds a degree in archaeology from McGill University in Montreal. During her study there, she participated in archaeological digs from as close as Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, to as far away as Alaska.

#### INTERNSHIP PROGRAM LAUNCHED

Andrew Hanna, hometown Harbor Springs resident, became the society's first official intern, serving three months from January through March. He successfully completed three program goals: 1. Accessioning and cataloguing artifacts, 2. Updating the downtown walking tour and 3. Assessing Museum Store operations. Hanna had previously worked as an interpreter at the Shipwreck Museum in Whitefish Point.

# TAKING THE MESSAGE TO THE COMMUNITY

9&10 News visited the History Museum in March during its coverage of Women's History Month, particularly focusing on Elizabeth Whitney Williams, one of the country's first officially appointed female lighthouse keepers. Williams served in that capacity for 41 years, including 29 years at Little Traverse Lighthouse on Harbor Point.

The May/June 2022 issue of the Historical Society of Michigan's award-winning magazine, *Michigan History*, featured a cover story on Ephraim Shay's innovative locomotive, which transformed the logging industry. Written by the Harbor Springs Area Historical Society's program coordinator



and curator Beth Wemigwase, the article weaves a fascinating story of the inventor's early career struggles, his success with his locomotive design and the impact he had

on the Harbor Springs community in his "retirement" years.



#### SPREADING THE WORD

The historical society developed a series of quarter-page print ads for the *Harbor Light* newspaper to raise awareness of the Bringing History to Life comprehensive fundraising campaign for the historical corridor. The six-ad series ran weekly in August and September.

# **INVESTING IN HISTORY**

The donor list that follows includes all gifts made in 2022 with the exception of gifts made to the Bringing History to Life Campaign, which are listed on page 12.

#### \$250,000 and higher

The Offield Family Foundation

#### \$25,000 - \$99,999

Barker Welfare Foundation Ann Baruch PECO Foundation Margaretta Taylor Henry E. & Consuelo S. Wenger Foundation

#### \$10,000 - \$24,999

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Tom and Amara Abood
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Lorrie Howenstein
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Joan Smith
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#### \$500 - \$999

Richard and Annette Babcock



Volunteers Tresa Johnson, Cheryl True, Jan McDonald and Trustee Sue Conlon acted as guides for local 4th grade tours of the Little Traverse Lighthouse in May 2022.

Jack and Susie Baker Terry and Lyndi Balven Marty and Kathie Breighner Heather and Kevin Byer David and Barbara Buzzelli William and Jennifer Chope Donald and Sarah Cohen Collier Community

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Kristyn Balog Jean Beckon Tony and Lois Blumka Dan and Pat Bongiovanni Dale and Kayla Briggs

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Robert Troth Donald and Susan Urban

H.J. and Jennifer VanDusen Dawn Wagner

John and Susan Weaver John and Jean Wickett **Bob and Sandi Wolf Ami Woods** 

### **VOLUNTEERS**

The historical society depends on thousands of volunteer hours annually to present successful programming and realize much-needed financial support. Those contributing their time and talents ranged from the board of trustees to the campaign cabinet, Blessing of



the Fleet, Shay Days and programming committees and countless individuals serving as docents, school group educators, gardeners, handy men/women and event hosts. Thank you all!

Volunteer Ron Kurtz created a model for Shay Days showing the various logging methods practiced during the late 1800s.

Michael Youngblood Doug and Nancy Zoerhoff

#### \$100 - \$149

James Amy Stephen and Cynthia Baron Devra and Mark Barrett **Bob and Sandy Bean** Steven and Susan Beckert Carol Bitting Richard and Connie Blazier Laird Blue Pier and Renee Borra John and Rhoda Brooks Gerard and Shelly Carlin Mike and Susan Carson **Robert and Beth Christians** Carolyn Christy **Amy Daniels** Tom and Connie Dansbury Elizabeth Davis Carl and Ann Dean Michael and Karen Donnelly Margery Edwards Cindy Ferrini David and Judy Frey Lou and Pam Gostinger Tim and Susan Grajewski Balky and Patricia Grannis Walt and Mary Granstra Joe and Deborah Griffin David Henning G. P. and Millie Hightower James Hill David and Ellen Hofacker Elisabeth Holley Ty Humpert Terry and Patti Jackson Jeff James and Marinda Miller Tim and Jude Jardine Sally and Jerome Johnson Gordon and Catsy Johnston Molly Jones George Jury Sheryl Kittrell Mary Lark Phyllis Ledyard Jim and Jib Liska Diane MacKenzie Mark and Patricia Malcolm Mark McCune Tim McDermott and Robin Welsh



Bob Laakman (trustee), Erin Kuiphof, Molly Jones (trustee), Sheree Laakman, Amanda Smith (staff) and Sarah Smith tended "Baby," a replica of Ephraim Shay's locomotive, during the 4th of July Parade.

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Volunteers Margo Sutton and Karen Adams staffed the information table at the schooner Madeline tours during Blessing of the Fleet 2022.

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John and Jannes Zobus

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In Memory of Helen Bean

#### PETER AND TERRY BOYER

In Honor of Ann Baruch

#### **DAVID AND JOAN CULVER**

In Honor of Ann Baruch

#### **JANE DARLING**

In Memory of Count Darling III

#### **FRED AND KAY GEUDER**

In Memory of Jean Jardine

#### **NORM AND LINDA HARRIS**

In Honor of Dick Babcock

#### **LINDA HELLER**

In Memory of Marge May

#### **BOB AND SIGNA HERMANN**

In Honor of Ann Baruch

#### **TONY AND POKEY HUFFMAN**

In honor of Mr. and Mrs. H.M. (Huffy) Huffman

#### **BOB AND SHEREE LAAKMAN**

In Honor of Matt and Patsy Parmenter

#### **BOB AND SANDY LAUER**

In Memory of DePrez Ewing

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# LEAVE A LEGACY BRICKS 2022

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To order a brick please email our office manager at office@harborspringshistory.org.

NEW \* 2023 \* NEW \* 2023 \* NEW \* 2023

# HERITAGE CIRCLE

Supporters who have chosen to remember the Historical Society in their estate plans

**GEOFF AND SUZANNE UPWARD** 

Estate gifts can be income-generating or those taking effect after death. Types of planned gifts include bequests, beneficiary designations, life insurance policies, charitable remainder trusts, charitable gift annuities, charitable lead trusts and qualified retirement plan beneficiaries.

Contact Kristyn Balog, Executive Director, if you have included the Harbor Springs Area Historical Society in your estate, or are interested in more information regarding such planning.

# BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE CAMPAIGN DONATIONS

# The list below includes all gifts and pledges to the comprehensive campaign since its inception in 2018 up to August 10, 2023.

#### NAVIGATOR \$100,000 - \$249,999

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# HARBOR SPRINGS AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## **OUR MISSION**

To preserve, interpret and share the history of the Harbor Springs area, while encouraging curiosity and promoting an understanding of how the lessons of the past can foster an informed community.

## **OUR VISION**

To ensure that our collections and the stories they tell are accessible to all people. To be recognized regionally as a center of learning, imparting historical knowledge that shapes, informs and inspires the present and future.

# **OUR VALUES**

Our work will be guided by our commitments to:

#### STEWARDSHIP & SERVICE

- We effectively, efficiently and responsibly care for the resources that have been entrusted to us, today and for future generations.
- Public service is inherent in what we do. We challenge ourselves to focus on meeting our audiences' changing needs and to provide inspired customer service.

#### **INNOVATION & RESOURCEFULNESS**

- We continually seek imaginative ways to meet our mission of connecting people to history by sharing compelling stories.
- Creativity and effective delivery are critical to our success and are recognized, supported, honored and rewarded.
- We are entrepreneurial in our search for diversified financial and other resources, but always mindful that they support our mission, vision and strategies rather than direct them.

#### INTEGRITY

- We act and communicate with honesty, openness and transparency.
- We uphold and support our belief in excellence and leadership across professions, especially through staff performance, development and compensation.

#### **INCLUSION & COLLABORATION**

- We strive to ensure that our collections, programs, staffing and governance reflect the diversity of the area we serve and are accessible to all.
- We embrace the instructive value of historical knowledge.
- We learn from differences of opinion and encourage open, nonthreatening discourse.
- We conduct our work with cooperation and mutual respect, working collaboratively to take advantage of the diversity of skills and activities throughout the organization and the greater community.



## **2023 EVENT HIGHLIGHTS**

In addition to twice-monthly History Talks and seasonal events in 2023, the historical society will be presenting the following blockbuster programs to the Harbor Springs community:

#### **SPECIAL EXHIBIT:**

## Restful Resorts: Cottages, Community and Change

Opening May 2023 and running through Spring 2024 at the History Museum

Everything changed for the small village of Little Traverse after 1875 – in fact, the three decades between 1870 and 1900 were full of explosive change that forever defined our town. Almost overnight Little Traverse, called Harbor Springs after 1881, transformed from a primarily Odawa village and up-and-coming logging town into a tourist and resort destination, flooding the area with thousands of new residents. The communities lost and created during this pivotal era are the subject of this fascinating new exhibit.

Blessing of the Fleet "Fleet Week" | June 27-29, 2023

**25th Annual Shay Days** | July 14-15, 2023

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#### HARBOR SPRINGS AREA

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PO BOX 812 HARBOR SPRINGS MI 49740-0812