

# Charlevoix Historical Society

## Annual Report

2009

### MISSION STATEMENT

*The Charlevoix Historical Society is dedicated to the acquisition, preservation, and protection of objects and places of historical value, to the dissemination of information regarding these objects and places, and to the bringing together of all peoples interested in the history of the Charlevoix area.*

#### HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President:** Mona Bergeon **Vice-President:** Chris Unbehaun

**Secretary:** Kay Heise **Treasurer:** Denise Fate

**Membership Secretary:** Amy Lalewicz

**Finance Committee Chair and Past President:** Paul Hoelderle

**Directors:** Mary Adams, Chuck Unbehaun (terms end 2010)

Paul Hoelderle, Phyllis Elzinga (terms end 2011)

Rudy Scharschmidt, Jack MacKenzie (terms end 2012)

**Advisory Committee:** Julia Anne Bandfield, Mike Bergeon, Dave Garland,  
John Haggard, Jack MacKenzie, Paul Nowak, Shirley Polakowski, Mick Smith

**Museum Co-Director and Editor:** David L. Miles

**Museum Co-Director:** Steve Goslee

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is a great pleasure to be able to inform our members that the Charlevoix Historical Society is financially solvent. To all those who have shared their means and made this true we are most grateful, far beyond our meager ability to verbalize our thanks. Because so many have been so generous we are reassured that our work is appreciated, and we are thus motivated to continue the preservation of the delightful and unique history of Charlevoix. We are very proud of that which has been done, and with the time, effort, and expertise of so many.

During the summer of 2009 the Lighthouse was returned to its historic red color, and looks grand. Restoration of the Depot pillars was completed, and the exterior lighting was repaired or replaced. Beside the entry to the Depot parking lot large pieces of the historic scored surface of Chicago Avenue were installed along with an informative plaque and plantings. Inside the Depot the ticket office was restored to its working appearance. Finally, the flagpole and flag were returned to their proper place atop the Depot.

At Harsha House one of the two apartments upstairs was vacated and the decision was made to turn the space into climate-controlled storage for those collections which would be damaged by extremes of temperature and humidity. As an apartment the space would have needed some expensive and extensive safety updating. The chronic need for storage has been alleviated by this move. Work continues in other areas of the building to shore things up and maintain structural stability.

Two of our '09 events set new records for attendance, the Spaghetti Dinner in November and the Christmas Dinner in December. The fall harvest potluck and the February Valentine potluck were both delightful and enjoyed by many, and the several programs throughout the year were excellent. Camp Charlevoix held a wonderful reunion at the Depot in August; the Depot building and gardens were much admired and appreciated by those in attendance.

It has been an honor and a privilege to work with the members and the board of the Society. We salute the directors David Miles and Steve Goslee for all they do, and we extend sincere thanks to all who have sustained this organization.

## MUSEUM DIRECTOR'S REPORT (1)

Even considering the state of the economy, the number of people who came to Charlevoix this year was considerable, reflected in the estimated 1200 visitors to the Harsha House Museum. They arrived from Helsinki, Tel Aviv, Japan, and Frankfurt, Germany, plus from all over the United States. One of our biggest draws in 2009 was the new exhibit on the life and works of Earl Young, Charlevoix's famed master builder in stone. It was so well received that we are keeping it up another year, also to coincide with the Earl Young house tour which the Society will be hosting in the summer of 2010.

Additions to the museum's artifact, book, art, document, and photo collections were again substantial and continue to increase. Artifacts and photos accessioned and/or cataloged and accepted as donations in the calendar year were:

Original paintings, watercolors, and sketches

Books

Thousands of *Charlevoix Courier* archival photos up to 2006

Miscellaneous photos

Old calendars

Items for the restoration of the Depot's ticket master's office

Charlevoix hotel artifacts

Quilts

Antique blackboards

Boy Scout memorabilia

Lake Michigan nautical charts

Foster Boat Works blueprints

Vintage cameras and projectors

Camp Charlevoix memorabilia, artifacts, and photos

Vintage clothing and textiles

Vintage electronic equipment

Model trains and railroad memorabilia

DVDs of historic photos

A steamer trunk

A 1763 edition of Father Pierre Francois Xavier de Charlevoix's letters describing his journeys through the New World in 1720-1722

The project to digitize the most important images in our photo collection continues slowly but surely, now at over 10,600 done. A volunteer committee reviews each photo in the collection plus those recently donated or loaned and selects for inclusion, basing its decisions upon both photo quality and historical importance. The review of the recent donation of the *Charlevoix Courier* archives has almost been completed. Those images selected will be further winnowed to choose the very best and relevant ones. Then they will be scanned to a hard drive and copied to a PastPerfect program with description and search capability. 9170 images are already on that program from previous years. All of this digitized information is then copied and stored in a safe deposit box. It is estimated that at least 5000 more photos remain to be scanned and described. Grant money is being sought to continue the project while Society funds keep it going in the meantime.

The Harsha House Museum store continues to do well, not up to the levels of previous years when we had a temporary display window downtown, but satisfactory in light of the economy. The necessity of a permanent downtown display is recognized for the near future, with perhaps the co-operation of the City of Charlevoix in providing it.

The monthly newsletter which I compose and edit is mailed to just under 400 addresses. About 120 of these go out of state in the winter.

I continue to host bus tours of Charlevoix through both the Harsha House and the Chamber of Commerce. These always take in the Earl Young houses, then the north side of town, and if time permits, the south side also, from Ferry Beach to Mt. McSauba. They sometimes include walking stops at Earl Young's Boulder Park houses and the Heritage Gardens at the Depot, with perhaps a stop at the Harsha House Museum, weather and time permitting. Word has gotten out about these tours. As of January, 2010 eleven had already been booked for the upcoming season, which has never happened before. With increased demand on the horizon, it will be necessary to develop a nucleus of volunteer tour guides to handle the anticipated demand. Bus tours are now arriving in Charlevoix from as far away as Kansas and Oklahoma.

Highlights of the year include my annual illustrated program at the Depot, this time on the history of Charlevoix's hotels, that was very well attended. A booklet based on the program is being developed for publication in 2010. I also assisted former Professor of Botany Roger Knutson with his illustrated program on the natural prehistory of the northern Michigan region. I edited the text of and wrote the introduction for a new book, "The Mushroom Houses of Charlevoix," by Boulder, Colorado photographer Mike Barton. Working with the Chamber of Commerce, I designed a new Earl Young building map with color photos to replace the previous unillustrated map. I produced many panels of historic Camp Charlevoix photo and document reproductions for the Camp Charlevoix reunion at the Depot in August. Working with a small committee after many requests from our membership, I have selected 235 classic archival photos, with supporting texts, to be placed on the Society website in the spring of 2010. They will provide for the public a highly abbreviated history of Charlevoix. My co-director Steve Goslee, exhibit chair Karen Lewis, and former museum director Betsy Reynolds and I produced a new illustrated history booklet of the coming of the railroad and its impact on Charlevoix, which came out in early summer and has sold very well. This was our second topical publication.

Steve Goslee and I thank our loyal volunteers for the many hours they contribute designing and mounting exhibits, working on the collections, doing research, maintaining the Harsha House and Depot buildings and grounds, and providing docent services in the summer, among other activities. And a special thanks to our Board of Directors, Patrons, Ralph Hamilton Circle members, lifetime, and annual members for their continuing encouragement and support, without which we couldn't accomplish the preservation of Charlevoix's priceless history.

David L. Miles, Co-Director

## MUSEUM DIRECTOR'S REPORT (2)

2009 was another busy and productive year for the Historical Society. While routine tasks take up much of my time, such as bookkeeping, payroll, helping visitors, store sales, record keeping, bill paying, and accessioning and cataloging our collection donations, I did have time to work on some special projects.

Karen Lewis, Betsy Reynolds, Dave Miles and I completed the second booklet in our History of Charlevoix series, *The Railroad in Charlevoix*. In conjunction with its publication, we had our first annual Depot Days when the Depot was open to the public with displays of model trains and the newly restored ticket office. We also set up displays in the Depot for the Camp Charlevoix reunion held there in August.

Our collection of Charlevoix-related artifacts and photographs continues to grow. In 2009 we made two major steps addressing our collection storage problems. We rented a larger storage unit, which combined with donated racks and panels allowed us to consolidate our large item storage. The bobsled was removed from the back yard of the Harsha House and we still had room for the Big Rock Point Nuclear Plant exhibit items and artifacts. The second improvement occurred when the tenants in apartment #3 in the Harsha House moved out and the Board of Directors decided to use the space for conservation and fragile artifact storage. The added space also provides a spacious location to use our matte cutter while mounting photographs for upcoming exhibits. In the past we had to set up in the office or museum while we created panels for the Earl Young exhibit and other current displays.

Our new accessible storage and the ongoing photo digitization project go a long way to make our historic collections more user friendly, allowing easy retrieval of a particular item or image.

As always, I would like to thank our members, donors, patrons, and volunteers for their support of the Society and remind you that the Charlevoix Historical Society is “by the people and for the people.”

Steve Goslee, Co-Director

## MUSEUM COMMITTEE

The Museum Committee operates with four subcommittees: Acquisition, Preservation, Restoration, and Exhibit.

The purpose of the committee is to assist the museum co-directors with incoming artifact donations. We also preserve and/or restore all artifacts and archival materials, plan, mount, and rotate our collections in exhibit at the Harsha House Museum, and design and mount special exhibits at the Depot.

The Preservation Committee, with outside help, moved our larger artifacts from the two old storage units to a more accessible unit with outside entry. Committee members are in the process of setting up a new textile room, fragile artifact room, and a conservation area in the newly vacated apartment #3 on the second floor of the Harsha House. They continue to evaluate the art collection and estimate costs for the Adopt-a-Painting program.

The Restoration Committee and Exhibit Committee completed phase I of the Depot ticket master's office. The old stove installed in the office was scraped of rust and painted black. It is hoped that nickel plate embellishment might be added to it. The committees are now working on phase II.

The Exhibit Committee hung original paintings by former shoe store owner P. D. "Don" Campbell on the museum's ramp wall, from the collection of his daughter Julia Anne Bandfield. It mounted the Life and Works of Earl Young photos and biography in the heritage area, commemorated the Charlevoix Kiwanis Club with a collage exhibit, and honored former *Charlevoix Courier* editor and mayor Will Hampton with the help of his granddaughter Mary Beth Soellner of Harbor Springs. A photo history of the grist mill beside the bridge was placed in the Bob Miles corner of the museum. The committee also set up a small exhibit to publicize the Society's two history booklets, *Charlevoix Pier Lights* and *The Railroad in Charlevoix*. Held over for another year was the very well received military uniform and artifact exhibit from the museum collection, in the textile area. The committee also helped arrange the displays of model trains and railroad items at the Depot during the summer's Depot Days. Work began on collecting the materials, both donations and loans, needed for 2010's Vintage Wedding Dresses exhibit.

Committee members: Anne Bandfield, Cynthia Garland, Steve Goslee, David Miles, Betsy Reynolds, and Kathleen Smith.

Karen Lewis, Committee Chair

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The membership secretary is responsible for maintaining accurate lists of current members by membership category, and for issuing notices of dues payable. This year an effort was made to bring the electronic membership files up to date.

Membership dues are a source of income for the Society which help to cover the many day-to-day expenses. They are paid on an annual basis for the calendar year beginning January 1 and ending December 31. Several categories of membership are available: Annual Individual (\$15), Annual Family (\$25), Life Individual (\$250), Life Couple (\$400), Ralph Hamilton Circle (\$100 annually, which includes annual membership dues), Annual Patrons at the Diamond (\$2000 or more), Platinum (\$1000 to \$1999), Gold (\$750 to \$999), Silver (\$500 to \$749), and Bronze (\$350 to \$499) levels to help underwrite large projects and events.

Membership totals for the year ending December 31, 2009 are as follows:

Patrons	28 including 5 new
Ralph Hamilton Circle	30 including 1 new
Annual Individual	72 including 5 new
Annual Family	67 including 10 new
Life Members	136 including 5 new

This brings the membership number for 2009 to 333 including 26 new members. (The total membership is difficult to determine accurately. The family category does not calculate the number of people in each family. Ralph Hamilton Circle and Patron membership likewise can be either individuals or couples. Businesses are also members. It is estimated that the total membership number is well over 400.—Ed.)

Amy Lalewicz, Membership Secretary

## VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

The Society's Volunteer of the Year, announced and honored at the annual Ice Cream Social at the Depot in early September, was Board member Chuck Unbehaun. Chuck has spent, and continues to spend, uncounted hours making grant applications to many organizations to support several different functions of the Society. He has been instrumental in receiving both funds and in-kind services for the lighthouse restoration, the Depot restoration and maintenance, the Harsha House stabilization and renovation, and the photo digitization project. The finding of additional storage was also one of his projects. He also acts as a liaison with the City of Charlevoix and other bodies to connect the Society with the community in many different ways. Chuck's services have proved invaluable over several years.

## PUBLICITY

The Publicity Chairperson has the responsibility of collecting information about all the programs and events the Society presents plus the projects it is involved in. This information is then given to the area newspapers: the *Charlevoix Courier*, the *Petoskey News-Review* (including the Weekender edition, the Entertainment Supplement, and the Graphic supplement), and the *Traverse City Record-Eagle*. Sometimes other newspapers are notified as well as area television and radio stations that carry public service announcements. E-mailing is also a good source for publicity information and dissemination. Society brochures are also distributed to local motels and hotels.

Scrapbooks are kept of all news articles, event announcements, and paid advertising.

Phyllis Elzinga, Publicity Chair

## SPAGHETTI DINNER

This year's twelfth annual all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner at the Villager Pub brought in \$2821 in tip money plus donations for the Society's coffers. This was close to last year's mark. Pub owner and Patron Terry Left again generously donated the spaghetti and soft drink portion of the menu from his receipts. Board and Society members working as volunteer waiters and greeters served around 275 meals in three hours. This increasingly popular event will be repeated in November of 2010.

Mick Smith, Event Co-ordinator

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

The members of the Finance Committee are: Paul Hoelderle, Committee Chair; President Mona Bergeon; Karen Denise Fate, Treasurer; Mike Bergeon; Chuck Unbehaun; Chris Unbehaun; John Kurtz; Mary Adams; John W. MacKenzie, M. D.; Dave Garland; Paul Nowak.

The committee is directed by the Board of Directors to formulate a budget and oversee the financial well-being of the Society. It meets weekly/monthly as required to review billing invoices, invest funds, and review the treasurer's report prior to its submission to the Board at its monthly meetings. Vel Kammerman of Mason and Kammerman P. C., Certified Public Accountants of Charlevoix, Michigan prepares Federal and state tax returns in conjunction with the committee.

The Finance Committee requests and reviews bids and makes recommendations for all maintenance and construction projects for the Harsha House, Depot, and Lighthouse to the Board. It has been responsible for implementation and oversight of the one-year goals established by the Board at the beginning of the fiscal year.

The Lighthouse Keepers Committee has finished Phase Two of the Lighthouse Restoration Project with the repainting of the structure back to its original historic red color, accomplished in the summer of 2009. This phase was accomplished by grants from the State of Michigan, sales of items at the Harsha House Museum store earmarked for the lighthouse, and individual donations. The committee is currently working on Phase Three—scraping and painting the lighthouse interior. This is expected to be completed in the summer of 2011.

The Depot maintenance is on-going. In the past year, the exterior lights have been repaired or replaced. The flag is again flying overhead. Painting the exterior is under consideration for the summer of 2010 or 2011.

Harsha House maintenance is also ongoing. One apartment has been vacated and will be used for storage of lightweight items, etc.

A major effort was expended by Amy Lalewicz to make our membership roster current and bring back some past members, which improved our income this year.

In summary, 2009 was a challenging year. However, with your continuing support, both physical and financial, your Society has come through in good shape. 2010 will be another challenging year, too. Our pending Earl Young house tour should be an interesting and rewarding event for the Society.

Paul Hoelderle, Committee Chair

## SHORT TERM AND LONG TERM SOCIETY GOALS

The following lists of goals were established as a result of annual workshops of both the Board of Directors and the Finance Committee. These goals were divided into short term (intended to be one-year or slightly longer) and long term (five- and ten-year segments). Although there is some attempt to place them in order of priority, the order is somewhat arbitrary since many of these goals will be worked on concurrently but the times for implementation and finalization might differ.

### **Short Range To Be Accomplished As Soon As Possible**

For the Society:

1. Bring in more young members.
2. Develop a long range plan for Harsha House usage and increased storage facilities both on and off the premises.
3. Plan for permanent use of a video camera for recording events, functions, and exhibits.
4. Establish an emergency fund of \$5000 for immediate high expense needs.
5. Develop walking and driving tours of Charlevoix.
6. Being putting programs on DVDs for sale in the museum store and elsewhere (in progress).

For the Depot:

1. Develop a long range plan for usage and renovation.
2. Continue to submit transportation and photo digitization grant applications (in progress).
3. Install traffic directional signs both from the north and the south.
4. Finish restoration of the ticket master's office (in progress).

### **Five-Year Plan (2010 – 2014)**

For the Society:

1. Take over the one remaining upstairs apartment at Harsha House.
2. Study fire prevention further.
3. Increase patron sponsor income to \$60,000.
4. Publish monographs from chapters of the *Bob Miles' Charlevoix II* book with increased text and photographs (in progress).
5. Develop a youth community service program and student internships at Harsha House.
6. Develop a photo file of all of the Charlevoix area historic buildings.
7. Involve Charlevoix in Michigan History Week.
8. Develop video tours of our exhibits.
9. Develop self-directed digital photo programs of various historical topics.

10. Have the Charlevoix Public Library inventory our library.
11. Reorganize the Director's office.
12. Obtain a large printer for oversize photos (greater than 8 x 10).

For the Depot:

1. Install historically accurate awnings on the east and north windows.
2. Continue restoration of the ticket master's office, if needed.

### **Ten-Year Plan (2010 – 2019)**

For the Society:

1. Hire a full-time director.

For the Depot:

1. Establish the Depot as a second working museum open regularly.
2. Rebuild the water tower.
3. Obtain a caboose or railroad passenger car for display/use/

### **Ongoing and Projected Projects**

1. Digitize the Bob Miles photo collection (in progress).
2. Achieve financial security.
3. Restore the oral history tapes (in progress).
4. Establish a planned giving program for members.
5. Increase membership and member participation.
6. Increase Ralph Hamilton Circle and Patron membership.
7. Make Charlevoix a leading historical research center for the area.
8. Treat artifacts which need preservation at the time of accession (in progress).
9. Increase the number of docents, perhaps off season.
10. Transfer films and videocassettes to DVDS.

**PROFIT AND LOSS—PREVIOUS YEAR COMPARISON**

	<u>Jan.-Dec. 2009</u>	<u>Jan.- Dec. 2008</u>	<u>\$Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Income:</b>				
Contributions	16,939.13	83,073.41	-66,143.28	-79.6
Income from Grants	44,564.44	34,000.00	10,564.66	31.3
Inventory Sales—Non-taxable	0.00	360.85	-360.85	100.00
Inventory Sales—Taxable	25,005.64	18,339.00	6,666.64	36.4
Investment Income	2,192.06	2,754.22	-562.16	-20.4
Membership Dues & Assessments	50,517.91	35,672.75	14,845.16	41.6
Museum Admissions	1,177.08	659.16	517.92	78.6
Program Income	28.75	100.00	-71.25	-71.3
Rental Income	8,220.00	9,254.00	-1,034.00	-11.2
Special Events Income	3,718.00	7,149.00	-3,431.00	-48.0
Uncategorized Income	<u>23.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>23.00</u>	<u>100.00</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	152,386.01	191,362.39	-38,976.38	-20.4
Less Cost of Goods Sold	<u>-11,131.75</u>	<u>-10,202.19</u>	<u>- 929.56</u>	<u>9.1</u>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	141,254.26	181,160.20	-39,905.94	-22.0
<b>Expense:</b>				
Awards & Grants	101.95	1,000.00	-898.05	-89.8
Bank Service Charges	62.00	74.00	-12.00	-16.2
Business Expenses	20.00	20.00	.00	0.0
Contract Services	1,090.00	3,425.00	-2,335.00	-68.2
Facilities & Equipment	60,965.08	152,665.16	-91,700.08	-60.1
Fundraiser	1,758.90	6,276.56	-4,517.66	-72.0
Investment	1,144.47	1,095.86	48.61	4.4
Membership Costs	4,134.95	5,716.95	-1,582.00	-27.7
Museum Archives	4,054.34	1,474.53	2,759.81	175.0
Museum Photo Digitization	0.00	144.84	-144.84	-100.0
Museum Sales—Non-Taxable	393.13	1,820.92	-1,427.79	-78.4
Museum Sales—Taxable	1,109.41	432.79	676.62	156.3
Operations	1,867.75	1,397.69	470.06	33.6
Others Types of Expenses	7,553.87	6,121.48	1,432.39	23.4
Payroll Expenses	29,334.26	30,828.39	-1,484.13	-4.8
Program Services	1,614.17	368.85	1,245.32	337.6
Uncategorized Expenses	<u>00.00</u>	<u>8.01</u>	<u>-8.01</u>	<u>100.0</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	115,214.28	212,871.03	-97,656.75	-45.9
<b>Net Income</b>	26,039.98	-31,710.83	57,750.81	182.1

## **Sponsors of the Charlevoix Historical Society, 2009**

### **Patrons:**

#### **Diamond Level (\$2000 or more)**

Anonymous, Currier Lawn Maintenance, HopkinsBurns Design Studio, Mrs. Adrienne Ives,  
Mr. Robert C. Pew, Virginia Rountree, John S. Wilson

#### **Platinum Level (\$1000 - \$1999)**

Jim & Patti Aikin, Mike & Mona Bergeon,  
Charlevoix Commercial Center Self-Service Storage, Adele Dilschneider,  
Mike & Rhea Dow, Harry K. Golski, Attorney, Paul & Sally Hoelderle, Ole Lyngklip/Time Warner,  
Anne Miller, Murdick Partnership, Mr. & Mrs. Richard B. Platt, David Robinson,  
Rudy Scharschmidt, Steele & Mary Taylor, Villager Pub & Terry's Place, Jeannine Wallace

#### **Gold Level (\$750 - \$999)**

Central Drug Store, John & Phyllis Elzinga, Don Kelly's Furniture Barn,

#### **Silver Level (\$500 - \$749)**

Ace Hardware, Graham & Betty Barton, Kwikie Duplicating Center, Dr. John W. & Carolyn MacKenzie,  
Barry & Karen Pierce, David Robinson, Rudy Scharschmidt, Seeley's Printing Service,  
Swanson K & D, Inc., Ron Winchester

#### **Bronze Level (\$350 - \$499)**

Lawrence & Danielle Allan, Mike Barton, Grey Gables Inn, Margaret Ladd

### **Ralph Hamilton Circle Members, 2009:**

**(Patron Sponsorship includes Circle Membership)**

Thomas Armstrong, Alberta Beyers, Walter & Lynn Bleakney, Gene Ann Cansfield,  
Stanley & Jennifer Harsha Carroll, Vincent & Mary Ann Chew, Marjorie Dinwiddie, Thomas & Gail Duke,  
Ted & Marilyn Dumbauld, Gary & Denise Fate, Sidney & Beth Feldman, Dr. Reed Freidinger,  
Edith Gilbert, Suzanne Goodwin, George Haggard, Steve & Ann Hansen, Hugh Harsha,  
Bob & Margaret Heath, Don & Kay Heise, Dale & Diane Herder, Ken & Nancy Kline, Karen Lewis,  
Andrew Lonyo, Dr. Melissa Makowski & Michael Lucido, Robert & Mary Ellen Morgridge,  
Edward O'Neill & Susan Kroll, Jeff & Nancy Porter, Betty Renton, Mason & Lynne Rosenthal,  
Charles & Christine Unbehaun, Gordon & Susan Van Wieren, Paul & Linda Weston

