



# GUNFLINT TIMES

## THE GUNFLINT TRAIL

### *Historical Society*

"A Legacy of the Northwoods"

VOLUME XXII

GUNFLINT TRAIL HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2024

## WE CAN TAKE IT!

### *The CCC on the GFT*

The Civilian Conservation Corps became one of the most well-known programs to rise out of the struggle of the Great Depression, its impact felt far and wide across the nation. The idea for a work-relief program dedicated to the improvement and conservation of federal, state, and local rural land had been tested by Franklin D. Roosevelt while he was the Governor of New York. The success of this program led him to push the idea as a national program just weeks after his election as President, and the program was approved on March 31, 1933.

The organization of the CCC was highly unusual for a government program as it was overseen by four different government organizations. The United States Forest Service handled the overall administration of the program as the CCC worked largely on federal property. The Department of Labor provided recruitment, the Department of War oversaw the individual camps and provided supplies, and the Departments of Agriculture and Interior worked to organize work projects. Eventually, the Department of Education also joined to provide in-camp education opportunities, and the Veterans Administration was involved with recruiting for camps that exclusively housed veterans from the Spanish-American War and World War I.

With the rallying cry "We Can Take It!" it didn't take long for the CCC to come to Cook County and the Gunflint Trail. From 1933 to 1942, six camps were operated at various times along the Trail. These camps were among the 13 camps in Cook County and the 145 camps operated within Minnesota.

#### The six camps along the Trail were:

- **Cascade Camp F-4:** Opened June 6, 1933, closed fall 1937. Located 11 miles up the Trail on the northwest side of Devil Track Lake.
- **Northern Light Camp F-6:** Opened June 1, 1933; closed May 1937. Located 14 miles up the Trail, halfway between Northern Light Lake and the South Brule River.
- **Gunflint Camp F-5:** Opened June 3, 1933; closed August 1942. Located 20 miles up the Trail on the North Brule near the UT 152 Lima Mtn Rd intersection.

- **Poplar Lake Camp F-44:** Opened July 21, 1933; closed November 1935. Located 33.5 miles up the Trail at the west end of Poplar Lake past Rockwood Lodge.
- **Cross River Camp F-43:** Opened September 1935; closed May 1937. Located 52 miles up the Trail between the Cross River and Round Lake.
- **Sea Gull Camp F-55:** Opened November 9, 1935; closed July 1937. Located 55 miles up the Trail on the site of the current USFS Sea Gull Guard Station. The Sea Gull Camp had the honor of being the most isolated camp in the United States.

It's easy to assume that a great deal of the work effort was put into reforestation. In the fall of 1937 alone, the men of Sea Gull Camp planted over 41,000 Norway or Red Pine over 74 acres of land, and this is just one example of mass reforestation efforts. However, the effort was far more nuanced and varied as land surveying, thinning ground cover, and removing "less desirable" tree types were common work assignments. Also common were projects to stop the spread of damaging plants, molds, and insects, including an experimental project that resonates today: testing mixtures to combat the spread of spruce budworm.

More than just the memories of the work of the CCC linger today. The development of the Trail as we know it is owed in no small part to the CCC's nine years of work here. Fire management was a major component of the summer work that occupied enrollees. Every summer they fought fires, constructed, and manned fire towers, and maintained fire roads. As part of fire mitigation and to encourage public use, crews also cut portages and cleared campsites that are

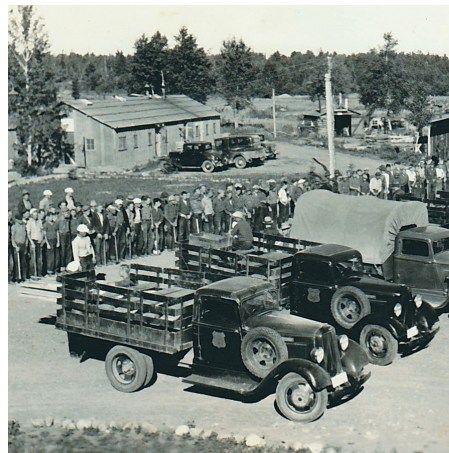
still in use today, including the Iron Lake Campground. The Kekekabic Trail and the South Lake Trail were also begun by CCC crews.

The greatest impact of the CCC on the Gunflint Trail was the immense amount of work that was put into road development. Braving winter conditions and temperatures perhaps more fearsome than the clouds of bugs in the summer, crews surveyed, cleared, and built Lima Mountain Road, Pine Mountain Road, and Twin Lake Road, among others. At this time, the Trail itself was a single-lane, windy road beyond Gunflint Lake, with "road" being a generous term. The Cross River and Sea Gull camps were tasked with building five new bridges, widening the road when possible, increasing the number of turnouts, improving roadbed conditions, and snowplowing.

Gunflint Camp closed August 1, 1942, the last CCC camp to close in Cook County. The war effort hampered recruiting and the Army had few resources available to support civilian projects. While the buildings and traces of camps may be gone, the legacy of the tremendous amount of work that was accomplished remains each time you drive to Chik-Wauk, hike the Kek, or portage a canoe.

Many thanks to Bill Boissenin for his excellent research on this topic. Visit Chik-Wauk's archive and library for much more information!

*Ashley Hatchett, Trustee*



# WHAT'S NEW FOR 2024?

Lots of activities take place during the off-season at Chik-Wauk in preparation for the summer. Supplies and gift shop items are ordered, trail work is planned, programs scheduled, and exhibits refreshed.

**These are some of the exciting new additions:**

- weekly interactive programs focusing on the dark sky, constellations, planets, the aurora, and the galaxy in the mini planetarium donated by

UMD Marshall W. Alworth Planetarium;

- weekly short interpretive hikes for adults and families focusing on the natural world of Chik-Wauk's campus, led by Emma Adams;
- an outstanding slate of speakers throughout the summer;
- an author exhibit highlighting Staci Drouillard and Timothy Cochrane;
- expanded artifact collections with interpretation;

- the Trapper's Cabin exhibit which opened mid-season 2023.

Work is underway to update the extensive video collection "Current Resorts of the Gunflint Trail" this summer, including adding Anishinaabe perspectives.

The USDA Forest Service returns with weekly programs on Wednesdays.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CORNER



If you are reading this newsletter, you are in some way connected to the Gunflint Trail Historical Society and Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center. Perhaps you are a Gunflint Trail Historical Society member. Maybe you volunteered at Chik-Wauk. Or you gave a

contribution to the Annual Campaign or Gift Club. Possibly, you baked a pie for the Old-Fashioned Pie & Ice Cream Social event. Or perhaps you visited Chik-Wauk and dropped a donation into one of the many donation boxes on Campus.

No matter the connection, your importance cannot be understated. The Gunflint Trail Historical Society receives no government funding, relying instead on the good will and generosity of the community. That is you! It is no small feat for a small non-profit to survive these days. The Historical Society and Chik-Wauk are thriving. All metrics are positive. Donations are strong, attendance to the site is up, programs are well attended, and Chik-Wauk has a strong base of volunteers and staff.

While being as old school and authentic as they come, the Gunflint Trail Historical Society strives to be innovative and forward looking as well. Last summer, an extensive QR code video library, adding interpretive depth to both the Watercraft Exhibit Building and Museum

exhibits was developed. Archival data storage software assures the preservation of precious stories and artifact history of the Gunflint Trail. Dark Sky technology communicates the magic of the night sky to the world.

In a society becoming increasingly disconnected from history, nature, and even one another, Chik-Wauk provides an antidote. None of the work is possible without the strong Board of Trustees and superb staff. Thanks to them and your continued support, the Gunflint Trail Historical Society continues to thrive and welcomes the next generation of visitors. We hope to see you often this summer.

*Mark Hennessy, Executive Director*

### CHIK-WAUK MUSEUM & NATURE CENTER STAFF CORNER

When you visit Chik-Wauk this season, you will see two new smiling faces around the campus. Please welcome Sandra Hisakuni and Caroline Urban.

Sandra will be in the Museum on Monday and Tuesday, but you may see her around the campus in other buildings helping out. Sandra has recently retired from teaching and has started a new career writing children's books.



- Mark Hennessy, *Executive Director*
- Bonnie Schudy, *Campus Director*
- Sandra Hisakuni, *Assistant Campus Operations Director*

Caroline is the new Nature Center Program Director. During the school season she is an Environmental Education teacher in Duluth, MN.



- Emma Adams, *Operations Assistant*
- Caroline Urban, *Nature Center Program Director*

### GUNFLINT TRAIL HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF TRUSTEES -2024

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## ZHINGWAAK ANISHINAABE EXHIBIT

The Anishinaabe exhibit committee, consultants, and Outhouse Exhibit Services, LLC, worked through the winter months. The exhibit is currently at the conceptual design phase and moving into the schematic design phase, followed by preliminary design and final design. The final design is scheduled to be ready in October 2024. Fabrication begins fol-

lowing approval of the final design, followed by installation.

Anishinaabe consultants for this project are Staci Drouillard of Grand Marais, Donovan Dahmen, Grand Portage, Sam Zimmerman, Duluth, and Rita Walaszek from the Minnesota Historical Society. The exhibit committee is grateful for the knowledge and support of the

Anishinaabe consultants. The theme of the exhibit is "reciprocity," with four areas of sub-focus, water, land, sky, and families.

Zhingwaaak is Ojibwemowin for white pine. Chik-Wauk is an attempt at an English language spelling of the word.

*Sue Weber, Anishinaabe Committee Member*

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!

It is wonderful to see the generous support that the Gunflint Trail Historical Society and Chik-Wauk have received from donors in 2023 and 2024. These contributions are vital in furthering the mission of preserving and sharing the natural and cultural history of the area. Whether through annual campaigns, online auctions, or special events like the Old-Fashioned Pie Social, each donation

plays a significant role in sustaining the organization's operations and facilitating its outreach efforts. The Gunflint Trail Historical Society appreciates the support of its donors. This recognition not only expresses gratitude, but it also encourages continued participation and engagement from the community.

*Mark Hennessy, Executive Director*

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Mike Myszewski & Martha James  
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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

First, Chik-Wauk had an amazing 2023 season, breaking attendance, and sales records despite again opening three-weeks late due to flooding. [Now, the roadbed has been raised, and with our unfortunate snowless winter, I am unequivocally prepared to predict that Chik-Wauk WILL open on time this season!! May 25th !!]

Simultaneously, the GTHS members have responded very well to ongoing funding efforts including generous membership participation in the online auction, grant funding, special gifts, and continued financial support to enrich the museum and society. The GTHS is in a very solid financial position.

The GTHS has an outstanding staff, board, and volunteer base. This year Mark Hennessy continues as our highly effective and tireless Executive Director. Also continuing is our beloved Bonnie Schudy (Campus Director) and the ever-efficient Emma Adams (Operations Assistant). Joining the team are Sandra Hisakuni (Campus Operations Assistant) and Caroline

Urban (Nature Center Program Director). Kathy Lande (former Assistant Campus Director) has retired from her role behind the desk yet continues to keep the Chik-Wauk Campus grounds and gardens looking beautiful. We are forever grateful for her generosity and stewardship. We also remain hopeful that we can recruit a university-level intern. I see all this combination as the nucleus of a highly effective and synergistic team.

I am so proud to see the considerable progress in many areas: the new Artist-in-Residence Program, the Trapper's Shack exhibit and newly member-built staircase, a new Asset Management plan that allows predictable upgrades/repairs to the Chik-Wauk facilities on a knowledge-driven basis, enhanced approaches managing our investments, the internationally recognized Dark Sky program, and volunteer recruitment and recognition. Many of these are detailed in this newsletter. Recognition of this progress takes place at the GTHS Annual Meeting on June 10th.

As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, the GTHS committees have lined up an outstand-

ing selection of weekly presentations for the 2024 season and are actively working on the well-funded and highly anticipated Anishinaabe exhibit for the Museum (installation and opening to the public in 2025).

I have said this before, but what strikes me the most, is that the passion and vision of The Gunflint Trail Historical Society original founders remains fully intact and ever evolving with current leadership as we continue to transition and mature to larger and more diverse programs. That passion is omnipresent with the current board, leaders, and volunteers. Bravo!!

Finally, it has been an honor to serve as your President over the past two years. As we have our Annual Meeting and transition to new officers and a couple of new Board Members, I can share that the energy and talent are there, and that the GTHS future remains extremely bright.

Blessings for a marvelous 2024.

*Gratefully,  
David M. Coleman, President*

## ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM

The Gunflint Trail Historical Society is excited to welcome two Artist-in-Residents, Kim Gordon and Don Luce, this fall.

With artistic eagerness each explores the Gunflint Trail looking for that special setting, composition, and golden hour light, which gives them inspiration for their next piece of creativity.

Kim Gordon lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and has a connection to the GTHS through her long friendship and professional relationship with Bill and Sue Douglas. She has volunteered for GTHS by serving on the Artist-in-Residence Task Force where she is instrumental with advice and knowledge from her many experiences with artist residencies and exhibits.

Inspired by landscape, light and color, Kim is a Painter and Batik Artist. Batik is the ancient technique of wax resists and layers of pigmentation.

"I often work with landscape because it encourages my connection to the world around

me. By spending time in an environment, I am able to steep myself in it, bringing back to my studio specific color harmonies, a sense of light and movement through the landscape. Batik, my initial intrigues soon became a serious study of this ancient process-oriented technique. The wax "resists" subsequent layers of pigment. By layering pigment and wax, one gradually can increase color and value range." ~ Kim Gordon.

This spring, Kim Gordon exhibits her work at Johnson Heritage Post Museum in Grand Marais, May 24 – June 16, a solo show of her Paintings and Batiks.

Don Luce is from Minneapolis and is the former Curator of Exhibits at the Bell Museum of Natural History at the University of Minnesota. He holds a degree in Medical and Biological illustration and a degree in Zoology. In 2022, Don spoke at Chik-Wauk on the artist Francis Lee Jaques who painted the moose diorama background of Gunflint Lake at the Bell Museum.

"I use painting and drawing to reveal the ecological processes that underlie the landscape, and to capture the sense of energy and excitement I feel while exploring nature.

"Most of my works depict the waters, shorelines, and surrounding forests of the northern Great Lakes region. These places include northern Lake Huron, Lake Superior and the Boundary Waters of Minnesota and Ontario. I try to create intimate views into the patterns of light and shade, liquid and solid, movement and calm, transparency and reflection that can be found in these boreal biomes." ~ Don Luce.

Watch for more information about class offerings, demonstrations and talks offered by Don and Kim this coming fall.

If you're interested in offering an experience for the Artists-in-Residence or offer them some Gunflint Trail hospitality, please contact Rene Block at [renezblock@gmail.com](mailto:renezblock@gmail.com).

*Rene' Block, Trustee*



Jack Dant (May 2023)

Heather Friedli (September 2023)

Kim Gordon (September 2024)

Don Luce (October 2024)

# FINANCIAL REPORT

Chik-Wauk experienced a delayed opening in 2023 due to flooding, the second year in a row. A repeat of these circumstances seems unlikely in 2024 with the past winter's low snow levels. Despite an early season setback in 2023, 8700 guests visited Chik-Wauk over the course of the season, a near-record high. Gift shop sales for the year ranked as one of the highest.

Two annual fundraising campaigns, the fall Annual Campaign and winter Gift Club, received strong support from members and the community. Gift Club donations funded nearly all the items on the list, including new trail cameras with photos featured prominently in Trail Camera Tuesday social media posts. Attendance was strong and the gathering merry for the Annual Old-Fashioned Pie & Ice Cream Social in September despite temperatures in the mid-90s.

The support of wonderful members is vital to the future of Chik-Wauk and greatly appreciated.

The GTHS is not government-supported. Grants are a vital source of funding for numerous projects. Visit Cook County renewed a substantial grant to distribute free admission tickets to Trail resort guests, introducing countless new visitors to Chik-Wauk. Anishinaabe Exhibit expenses in 2023 are funded by grants from the Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation, Manitou Fund, and private donors. The Gunflint Trail Association, Lloyd K Johnson Foundation, and Visit Cook County have also granted dollars to update Chik-Wauk's "Trail Businesses" videos. The videos currently in the museum date back to 2010.

Generous gifts from anonymous donors allowed the GTHS to set up an endowment

to fund the Artist-in-Residence Program for many years.

The Endowment fund of the Gunflint Trail Historical Society capitalized on the improved performance of the 2023 market with equity returns generally performing well above the 5% goal. After unexpected volatility in the bond market in 2022, in 2023 fixed assets were reinvested into federally insured CDs with excellent guaranteed rates of return over long periods. These strategic shifts led to more predictable financial stability than in previous years. The GTHS Endowment has recovered well from the market lows of years past and is optimally situated to serve members and visitors into the future.

*Ashley Hatchett, Treasurer*

## DARK SKY REPORT

Interest in this region as a designated International Dark Sky Sanctuary is ever-heightening as is the GTHS role in promoting and protecting this environment. The GTHS remains active as a collaborative partner in the Starry Sky North Cook County Chapter.

One notable event was the Dark Sky committee's participation in the annual Cook County Dark Sky event held December 7 – 9, 2023. This was sponsored by Visit Cook County and included partners making presentations throughout the county. Activities took place at Gunflint Lodge which held a popular and well-attended series of events open to the public. In particular, on December 7th, David Coleman gave a presentation on dark sky factors and introductory dark sky photography, followed by a mesmerizing presentation by Bonnie Schudy using the Planetarium Panorama system now on permanent loan from UMD. Shawn Williams set up his telescope and provided a nice opportunity for the many participants present to view the milky way. The following evening Emma Adams gave a popular presentation on Stellerium astronomy software including cultural stories of the constellations using the Planetarium Panorama system. Next was a showing of a portion of Travis Novitsky's PBS Dark Sky movie. Summer programming at the Nature Center includes more use of the Panorama System.

Plans are currently evolving for the annual Dark Sky Caravan from the UMD Planetarium, tentatively set for Friday, August 9th. If all works out, the portable dome planetarium will be available for several presentations earlier in the day, followed by new activities to be held before sunset and concluded with the usual presentations and telescope viewing on the Chik-Wauk campus. This is always a fun and popular event, so please mark your calendars as planning continues and the final times and agenda are established. Updates will be out ahead of time concerning the evening events.

Grant proposals are currently pending to replace our vintage and inadequate computer system with far faster, robust components with significantly larger and faster memory, software, UPS backup and more. It is absolutely essential, if the submitted grant is not successful, that other funding approaches are aggressively pursued.

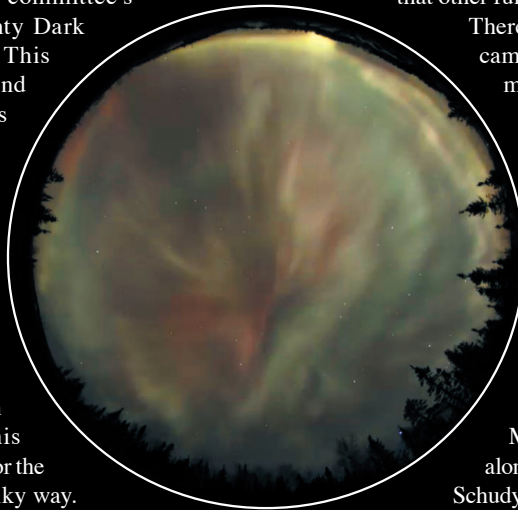
There have been several requests for a dark sky camera 'field night' to photograph auroral and milky way activity, followed by on-site group examples of image processing, and more. Watch for notifications.

Access to the All-Sky cam, including real-time observation as well as current and archived images and animations, can be seen at:

<https://gunflinthistory.org/dark-sky-cam/>

The Gunflint Trail Historical Society Dark Sky Committee includes David Coleman (Co-Chair); Emma Adams (Co-Chair), Jessica Rogers (UMD), Teresa Marone, Shawn Williams, Travis Novitsky, along with support from Campus Director Bonnie Schudy and Executive Director Mark Hennessy.

*David Coleman, President*



## GIFT CLUB 2023

It's heartening to see such generous support from the Gift Club members for Chik-Wauk's initiatives. The Board of Trustees is happy to announce another successful fund drive for the 2023 calendar year. This was the fourth year of the opportunity to financially support needed items and projects falling outside of the general operations budget for Chik-Wauk.

Campaign drive #4 was more focused on small upgrades to the Chik-Wauk Campus, from replacing the boards that have been damaged on the Boardwalk trail from recent years' flooding to storage cabinets and security cameras in the Nature Center.

The Trustees are pleased to recognize the following 2023 Gift Club members. Thank you for your dedication to this GTHS endeavor!

Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Melissa Anderson  
Margo Brownell & Dick Allyn  
Carol & Arden Byers  
Dan & Diane Fitzgerald  
Kathy & David Hawkinson  
Steve Micke  
Helen Muth & David Quick  
Keith & Deb Randa  
Colleen & Steve Semmer  
Fran & Fred Smith  
Mike & Cathy Stiefel  
Chris & Jane Wilson

Any and all Chik-Wauk supporters are invited to become members of this select group.

*Fred Smith, Trustee Emeritus*

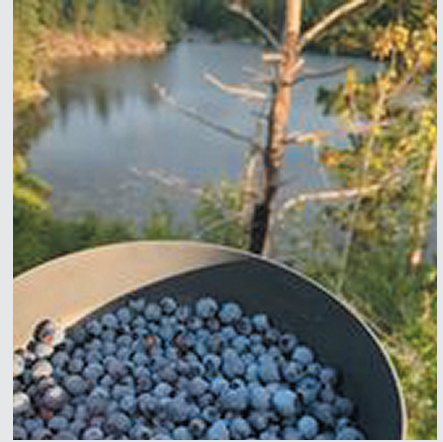


## GUNFLINT TRAIL HISTORICAL SOCIETY ONLINE AUCTION

The generosity of the Gunflint Trail community and friends continues each year as unique treasures and experiences are shared, and monetary contributions received during the February online auction. This important fundraiser not only supports the Gunflint Trail Historical Society's financial goals, but it also fits the mission to "build community by connecting people to the Gunflint Trail region and sharing its natural and cultural history."

Where else could you bid on a moose call and have a guided moose calling tour, find a long-time resident to share their secret blueberry patches, or fulfill your historical curiosity of the region on a fabulous boat ride? All of these could have been yours with a one-stop shopping experience at the Gunflint Trail Historical Society's online auction.

Thank you to everyone that participated and contributed to this fundraising event. That includes those of you who may not have won a bid item but kept the bidding going to meet or exceed the value of the item. The



total continues to grow each year, finishing this year with \$17,970 in bids, donations, and sponsorships. Last year the total was \$15,921 and the 2022 total was \$12,780. A sponsorship option was added this year – thank you Sears Imported Auto of Minnetonka, Minnesota, and Arrowhead Electric Cooperative!

*Patti Craddock, Trustee*

## AUTHOR EXHIBIT



*Timothy Cochrane*



*Staci Drouillard*

The Cook County community truly is a hub of talent, especially when it comes to authors. The addition of Timothy Cochrane and Staci Drouillard to the illustrious group showcased at Chik-Wauk Museum is undoubtedly something to celebrate.

Timothy Cochrane's latest book chronicles the lives of John and Tchi-Ki-Wis Linklater during a period of significant historical change and promises to offer valuable insights into the region's past. His forthcoming book is "Revealing the Island: Early and Forgotten Stories of Isle Royale".

The Drouillard family has a deep connection to Saganaga Lake and Chik-Wauk Lodge, where Staci's grandfather Fred Drouillard and grandmother Lola Drouillard worked for many summers in the 1940s and 1950s. Staci Drouillard's deep familial ties provide her

with a unique perspective, rooted in both personal experience and ancestral heritage. Her award-winning books highlight the rich history of the area, offering readers a deeper understanding of its cultural significance. The most recent book Staci wrote is a children's book, "A Family Tree" (Harper Collins, 2024) and is the story of a white spruce sapling planted in the rocky soil at Grand Portage and transplanted to Auntie's yard when the family moves away from the reservation.

The author exhibit at Chik-Wauk Museum is a fantastic opportunity for visitors to explore the works of these talented authors and perhaps even take home a piece of Cook County's history through their books. It's always inspiring to see local talent being celebrated and supported in such a meaningful way.

# ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

The GTHS initiated facilities asset management planning activities in 2023. How can asset management help GTHS?

- Increase our knowledge of our facilities and operations, which allows us to make better financial decisions.
- Reduce the number of emergency repairs and the potential for facility closures.
- Prioritize rehabilitation and replacement needs allowing time to research cost-effective solutions.
- Give us greater access to financial assistance. With the ability to forecast funding needs, we have more time to look for grants or donors. Plus, having an asset management plan can increase grant application priority ratings and donor investments. And, with the ability to forecast projects we can tap a volunteer labor pool that can plan time in the area to work on a specific project.

The GTHS adopted the following asset management process:



**Inventory and Assessment:** GTHS facilities and supporting infrastructure were inspected and findings recorded in forms along with photos to identify the condition of the asset, any improvements required, and the approximate timing for each improvement.

**Plan Development:** Concurrent with the inspections, a spreadsheet tool was developed: to warehouse all the asset information, organize infor-

mation in a 5-year improvement plan with estimated costs, prioritize the year of the improvement, and provide a 40-year forecast for improvement/replacement costs.

**Plan Implementation and Plan Review/Update:** These are ongoing process steps that will occur each year. The 5-year improvement plan projects will be updated and reviewed by the Property and Finance Committees, with recommendations available for the budget development process. This work will entail annual inspections and assessment updates, revising cost information and useful life estimates, reprioritization of projects, and an updated 40-year forecast.

Since its inception, the GTHS has performed facility inspections, made improvements, and performed preventative maintenance to obtain the most value from each asset. This more formal asset management process will benefit the GTHS as the assets age and there are generally increased improvements/replacements needed and new assets are added. It also provides a historical record to better forecast facility related costs and educate new staff, board members, and others assisting with facility improvements.

The GTHS Asset Management Plan developed in 2023 is considered a work-in-progress as we continue to refine the replacement values of assets, estimate the useful life of asset components, and identify the most effective use of the plan to serve the GTHS. More to come on asset management planning in 2024!

*Patti Craddock, Trustee*

## CHIK-WAUK NEEDS YOU!

Volunteering is a wonderful way to give back to the community and be involved in something meaningful! Whether it's lending a hand at the Museum, Nature Center, Watercraft Building, or other activities, there's bound to be something for everyone. The flexibility of the commitment makes it accessible for people with various schedules and interests. Helping out, even in small ways, can make a big difference! If you're interested in becoming a volunteer, reach out to Bonnie at 218-388-9915 or [info@gunflinthistory.org](mailto:info@gunflinthistory.org). No commitment is too small!!

**2023 Chik-Wauk teammates are recognized below:**

Carol Berg	GTHS Board of	Cherlyn Morrison
Jim Block	Trustees	Deb Randa
Rene' Block	Ashley Hatchett	Keith Randa
Barb Bottger	Matt Hatchett	Larry Roepke
Margo Brownell	Jayne Johnson	Marcia Roepke
Arden Byers	Kate Kelnberger	Ruth Saunders
Mike Carlson	Bruce Kerfoot	Anne Schuerger
David Coleman	Sue Kerfoot	Matt Schuerger
John Craddock	Chad Kieper	Fran Smith
Patti Craddock	Kathy Lande	Fred Smith
Cheryl Dailey	Mark Lande	Michael Valentini
Dark Sky Helpers	Mike Lande	Sally Valentini
Bill Douglas	Cheryl Larsen	Voyageur Canoe
Sue Douglas	Joyce Leddy	Outfitters
Don Germain	Sharlene	Sue Weber
GTHS Committee	LeTourneau	USDA Forest Service
Members	JT McMillion	Naturalists & Staff



*Larry Roepke, Bruce Kerfoot, and Bill Douglas*



**THE GUNFLINT TRAIL**  
*Historical Society*

"A Legacy of the Northwoods"



## 2024 GTHS AND CHIK-WAUK CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All events subject to change. Please call Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center at 218-388-9915 to confirm or visit [www.gunflinthistory.org/calendar/](http://www.gunflinthistory.org/calendar/)

### Chik-Wauk Campus Hours:

- Open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. May 25 through October 20.

### Attractions Hours:

- Museum and Interpretive Cabin: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Watercraft Exhibit Building: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Nature Center: 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

### Admission:

- Adults: \$6
- Children ages 5-18: \$3
- Children aged 4 and under: free
- Discount rates are available for seniors and military.
- Guests visiting with GTHS members receive discounted admission (depending on membership level).

### GUNFLINT TRAIL HISTORICAL SOCIETY SPECIAL EVENTS:

- **Sunday, September 1: 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

Join us for the Annual Old-Fashioned Pie and Ice Cream Social Fundraiser. Indulge in delicious homemade pies, served with ice cream, accompanied by live music from the North Shore Swing Band on the front lawn from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Take advantage of the Side-Walk gift shop sale! Suggested donation is \$6 per slice of homemade pie a la mode.



### GUNFLINT TRAIL HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS:

All meetings begin at 1:30 p.m. After a brief overview of GTHS business, a guest speaker presents Gunflint Trail tales and history, followed by treats and conversation.

### Meeting Dates and Locations:

- **Monday, June 10** - Seagull Lake Community Center

Speaker Nancy Seaton, National Scenic Byway Committee: Nancy Hemstad Seaton has been at home on the Gunflint Trail since the late 1970's. Learn the history of the Gunflint Trail National Scenic Byway and how the scenic byway program has positively affected today's Gunflint Trail corridor.

- **Monday, July 8** - A. Paul and Carol Schaap Community Center

Gunflint Trail Resident Remembrances: Barb Bottger hosts the Gunflint Trail remembrance meetings in July. Barb's sensitivity and compassion makes this meeting resonate. Her presentation is a chance to gather and remember Gunflint Trail residents who have passed. She includes a video portion and comments from attendees.

- **Monday, August 12** - Seagull Lake Community Center

Chris Knopf, Friends of the Boundary Waters: Chris Knopf, Executive Director of Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness, shares the story of ordinary citizens coming together to create the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA). Knopf's presentation outlines the Friends of the Boundary Waters conservation efforts, recent legal victories, challenges, and the organization's commitment to connecting people to the Boundary Waters through its three programmatic areas -- People, Wilderness, and Community.

*Don't miss out on these enriching events and opportunities to delve into the rich history and natural beauty of the Gunflint Trail!*

## CHIK-WAUK NATURE CENTER WEEKLY PRESENTATIONS

- **Tuesdays Kids' Day**

**Tuesdays, June 25 – August 20: 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

Every Tuesday, children under the age of 18 can explore the Museum, Nature Center, and Watercraft Building free of charge. Chik-Wauk staff offers a variety of hands-on activities related to the unique history and nature of the Gunflint Trail, including stories, hikes, journal making, and craft projects. Parental supervision required.

- **Wednesday USDA Forest Service Nature Talks**

**Wednesdays, June 19 – August 14: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Join us on the front porch of Chik-Wauk Museum as a U.S.D.A. Forest Service naturalist presents on a different Northwoods themed topic each Wednesday.

- **Thursday Dark Sky Pano Shows**

**Thursdays, July 11 – August 22**

Every Thursday, show times will be at 3:00 p.m., 3:30 p.m., and 4:00 p.m. Programs last 20 minutes: visitors can view the night sky and travel the cosmos from inside the Chik-Wauk Nature Center.

- **Friday Guided Nature Hikes**

**Fridays, June 14 – August 23: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Bring yourself, a friend, or the family and take a guided nature hike on the Chik-Wauk trail system with Emma Adams. Rain or shine Emma will introduce you to the flora and fauna that is located at Chik-Wauk.





**THE GUNFLINT TRAIL**  
*Historical Society*

"A Legacy of the Northwoods"



## SPECIAL HISTORY & NATURE PRESENTATIONS

*Located at Chik-Wauk Nature Center - unless noted otherwise.*

• **June 16, Sunday 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Teresa Marrone, beating the cost of freeze-dried meals and adding variety to the menu! Learn how to dehydrate vegetables, fruits, sauces, meats, and other foods that can be used to pack lightweight meals for camping, canoeing, and hiking.

• **June 23, Sunday 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Dr. Lee Frelich, will discuss the potential for increased fire frequency with climate change and what last year's huge burns in Canada mean for the boreal forest.

• **June 30, Sunday 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Dr. Seth Moore, Indigenous Co-Stewardship of Moose.

• **July 14, Sunday 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

David Battistel, the story of the Paulson Mine.

• **July 21, Sunday 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Cary Griffith, author of the recent book "Gunflint Falling, Blowdown in the Boundary Waters. Location: Seagull Community Center

• **July 27, Saturday 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

Elder Billy Blackwell shares his stories of the Anishinaabe families from the Gunflint Trail. Location: Seagull Community Center.

• **July 28, Sunday 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Mark Zimmer, the barefoot paddler shares his stories.

• **August 9, Friday 5:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.**

Dark Sky Program, campfire and s'mores along with indoor programming at the Nature Center. Once it gets dark, the UMD Planetarium will offer events outdoors to view the constellations through the telescopes.

• **August 18, Sunday 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Rita Walaszek, Indigenous history of Minnesota as it relates to Dakota and Anishinaabe.

• **August 25, Sunday 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Ashley Holte, A Look into Wildlife Rehabilitation.

• **September 14, Saturday 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Joe Friedrichs, his latest book, Last Entry Point: Stories of Danger and Death in the Boundary Waters focus on in-depth storytelling from the canoe-country wilderness.

• **September 21, Saturday 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Jan Sivertson, 'Once Upon an Isle' The story of fishing families on Isle Royale.

• **September 28, Saturday 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

Sandra Hisakuni, The Northland Beckons: A Haiku Workshop.

• **October 5, Saturday 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

Alliance History Group Presentation. Location: Arrowhead Center for the Arts in Grand Marais, MN

*You can learn more about any new upcoming presentations and classes on the website at [GunflintHistory.org/calendar](http://GunflintHistory.org/calendar)*

## THANK YOU TO KATHY LANDE

A contemporary Gunflint Trail icon announced retirement from working for the GTHS at Chik-Wauk. Kathy Lande has been a part-time assistant manager since the campus opened in July 2010. Even before the grand opening, she and husband Mike were totally engaged volunteers as the Chik-Wauk dream began to take shape in the early 2000's. Kathy retired at the end of the 2023 season from her employment position, but indicated she would still be involved in out-of-doors volunteering (she is an outdoors gal) as retirement time permits. There are neither enough words nor ink to fully acknowledge the work that Kathy has performed over the years, much of which has been behind the scenes.

Equally important, decades of living along the trail made her an invaluable resource as history was gathered and coordinated into chapters of Gunflint life in years gone by. There are just so many contributions Kathy made to this magical place at the end of the Trail.

While accolades go out to Kathy as an employee/volunteer, this recognition cannot be complete without mention of husband Mike. Mike also made countless contributions to this historical endeavor with his expertise in building and fixing things. Many campus tasks often found Kathy and Mike operating in tandem either by her beckon or his. The reality is that the Landes have been an unbelievable team. It

is hard to imagine where this process of restoration and telling the Gunflint story would have been without them.

The GTHS has been blessed for Kathy and Mike having been in the neighborhood and passed our way. The Chik-Wauk story of Kathy and Mike is likely a labor of love. It is yet another chapter in Gunflint Trail history that will forever be cherished by those who know them. As devoted GTHS members, they will still be around the campus scene. Please don't hesitate to stop them and express your gratitude for their roles in making Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center a spectacular destination!

*By Fred Smith, Trustee Emeritus*

When writing about Kathy and Chik-Wauk we must go back to its very beginning in 2005. Kathy was one of the strong pillars on which Chik-Wauk was founded. Here's proof that she was active in the very first meeting of the GTHS. The title on the poster is "Chik-Wauk Project Maps." Yes, she was explaining to the crowd where Chik-Wauk was located.

She was active and jumped in to help in any way she could. Who planned and even installed

the accessible boardwalk? It was Kathy with help from her faithful assistant (husband Mike).

These photos are just two examples of her early "can-do...will-do...happy-to" spirit that has been her trademark right up to 2024.

I personally join in thanking her for all her years of making Chik-Wauk what it is today and especially for the support she offered me as we began "The Chik-Wauk Dream" in 2005.

*By Betty Hemstad*



# THANK YOU MEMBERS!

A membership to the Gunflint Trail Historical Society, depending on the level, includes free admission to all Chik-Wauk buildings, a 10% discount in the gift shops (on non-consignment items), and much more. Thank you, members! Membership to the GTHS is annual from January 1 – December 31. The names listed below are current GTHS members as of April 16, 2024. The loyal, ongoing support of

members keeps the Gunflint Trail Historical Society and Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center a strong, vibrant entity of the Gunflint Trail community. Thank you to all members who renewed, joined, or are Founding members.

*Questions? Contact [info@GunflintHistory.org](mailto:info@GunflintHistory.org) or call the museum at 218-388-9915.*

## **FOUNDING MEMBERS**

Doodee Backstrom  
Bob & Sharon Baker  
Janis Berman  
Donn & Vicki Boostrom  
Robert Burgess  
Michael Carlson & Sue Weber  
Camille & Tim Clifford  
Jeff & Ayannia Coleman  
Bob & Stephanie Donaho  
Jim Edlund  
David & Rosemary Good  
Joe Grinnell  
Strata Construction— Ed Stover  
Martha James & Mike Myszewski  
John & Susan Karpicke  
Bruce & Sue Kerfoot  
Mary Levey  
Beverly Lind  
Jean Lynch  
Hugh & Nancy Magill  
Deb Mark &  
    Seagull Canoe Outfitter  
Sue & Bob McCloughan  
Bob & Susan Morrison  
Helen Muth & David Quick  
Viola Nelson  
Doug Nelson & Cheri Olson  
Kent & Kim Olson  
Mike & Sue Prom &  
    Voyageur Canoe Outfitters  
A. Paul Schaap  
Bob & Peg Tealander  
Dave Truehart  
Barb & Dave Tuttle  
Michael & Sally Valentini  
**PATRON**  
**MEMBERSHIP \$1000+**  
Mindy & John Fredrikson  
    Gunflint Lodge & Outfitters  
Katie & Graham Gillette  
Matt & Ashley Hatchett  
Joyce & Tom Leddy  
Robert Moore  
John & Terry Peshorn  
Anne & Matt Schuerger

## **STEWARD**

**MEMBERSHIP \$500+**  
Mark Hennessy & Sandra Hisakuni  
Phyllis & Roger Sherman

## **BENEFACTOR**

**MEMBERSHIP \$250+**  
Holly Ambrose & Chip Landmasser  
Paul Aslanian  
Melissa Anderson  
Barb & John Bottger  
Blake & Carol Carlson  
Lori & Grant Heslep  
Karl & Beth Johansson  
Jane Laurence & John Wright  
Todd & Sherry Novaczyk  
Pamela & James Postiglione  
Jean Sandrock  
Rosalee Shaffer  
Todd Sorenson  
Fred & Fran Smith  
Chris & Lynn Steele  
Mike & Cathy Stiefel  
Visit Cook County Visitor Bureau

## **BUSINESS**

**MEMBERSHIP \$100+**  
Adam S. Thomas  
    Foundation for Nature  
Anne Brataas Minnesota  
    Children's Press  
Bearskin Lodge  
C & W Hobbit House, LLC.  
Clearwater Lodge  
Gunflint Pines Resort & Campground  
Gunflint Trail Excavating, LLC.  
Heston's Lodge  
Hungry Jack Lodge & Campground  
Loon Lake Lodge  
Bruce Strand & Sons, LLC.

## **SUSTAINING**

**MEMBERSHIP \$100+**  
Anonymous  
Kip & Leanne Adams  
Jean & Oz Anderson  
Nancy Baker & Daniel Olson  
Buck Benson  
Carol & David Berg

Donald & Claudette Brandt  
Ernest & Pamela Brucellaria  
Ron Caple & Abett Icks  
Ann Carlson & Linnea Stafford  
Gary & Mary Connell  
Patti & John Craddock  
Jeffrey Davis  
Ruthie & Stephen Edlund  
Amy Elbers  
Tony & Carol Feiock  
Jan & John Finnegan  
Al Flieder  
John & Suzanne Gappa  
Christine & Rodney Garbe  
Deb & Paul Griffiths  
Steve & Bonnie Hagen  
Anne & Richard Hahn  
Robyn & John Hanson  
Mel Harrington  
Carol & Pete Harris  
David & Peggy Hayden  
Betty Hemstad  
Jenny & Joe Higgins  
Anita & Robert Hupfer Jr.  
Margit & James Jamieson  
Bev Johnson  
Gloria Johnson  
Robert Jolly  
Ann Victoria & Steve Jorstad  
Christine Justice  
David Kelley & Molly Maloney  
Larry & Jo Ann Krause  
Barbara & Mike LaMotte  
Susan Langston-Butcher  
Gay Lynn Liebertz  
Beverly Lind  
Michael Lyon &  
    Virginia Montgomery  
Marti Marchino  
Dixie Matijasevich  
Gary & Janice Mattison  
Tim & Maggie McDonnell  
Pat & Bobbi McMahon  
Steven & Kim Keesey Mercer  
Randy & Nancy Metzger  
Steve Micke  
Deborah Mielke & Benton Jackson

Allyn Miller & Carolyn Burr  
Peter & Carol Miller  
Scott & Stacy Mitchell  
Aaron Morrison & Claire Joubert  
Carla & Peter Nielsen  
Keith & Donna Nord  
Ann & John Norton  
Bert & Bonnie Notermann  
LaRaye Osborne & Mark TenEyck  
Peder & Irina Otterson  
Grant & Laura Parcells  
Eileen Parks  
Jerry & Maureen Pearo  
Fern Peterson & Michael Osterholm  
John & Judith Peterson  
Anneta Rehbein & Carsten Amme  
David Reynolds & Ann Smith  
Moses Rodriguez & Emily Margitt  
Jane Roth  
Ted & Dawn Sage  
A. Paul Schaap  
Larry & Sue Schei  
Susan Scherer  
Del & Jean Schmidt  
Tersenia Schuett & Keith Wendt  
Steve & Colleen Semmer  
Angela & Matthew Slattery  
Pam & Ken Spangler  
Peter Spink & Lori Peterson  
Carol Stark  
Heather & Tom Stirratt  
Pat Sueppel  
Paul & Sue Thielmann  
James Vos &  
    Ruthanne Hedstrom Vos  
Jon & Jean Weber  
Don & Leny Wendel  
David & Sandra Wirt  
John Zurn & Jeannine Ouellette  
**FAMILY**  
**MEMBERSHIP \$65+**  
Anonymous  
Ken Berzinski  
Sarah & Brian Clark  
Robert & Janine Cushman  
Kyle & Tess Hartzell  
Pam & Thomas Hartzell

Ina Huggenvik  
 Cynthia & Robert Ilg  
 Art & Beth Kidd  
 Marc & Sue Lundeen  
 Brian & Sarah Mader  
 Mary Manion-Bick  
 Quinn & Kate McCloughan  
 Forest Miles  
 Larry Montan & Jerry Johnson  
 Julie Morris & Jonathan Miller  
 Letitia Morris & Mark Higgins  
 Cherlyn & Jim Morrison  
 Leah & Alex O'Neill  
 Bruce & Leona Opp  
 Pam & Raymond Raiho  
 John & Laura Savin  
 Dale & Yvonne Swenson  
 LeRoy & Nancy Ullrich  
 Jackie Thompson  
 Ernie & Audrey Schroeder  
 Leonard & Karen Voit  
 Warren & Barbara Zemke  
 Jay & Anna Zlonis

**COMPANION**

**MEMBERSHIP \$50+**

Stu & Jeanne Abraham  
 David & Katie Alexander  
 Don & Ginger Alexander  
 Philis & Wayne Anderson  
 Jim & Judy Arnold  
 Richard & Pamela Backstrom  
 Dan & Teresa Baumann

Mickey & Dee Brazell  
 Arden Byers  
 Brett & Julia Cease  
 Dennis & Mickey Chick  
 Joan & Dick Crosby  
 Bill & Sue Douglas  
 Nicole & Vedran Djakovic  
 Paul Dykstra & Bob Beach  
 Rob & Trish Eibert  
 Paul & Mary Eklund  
 Bill & Sandy Louis Erickson  
 Richard & JoAnn Fink  
 Sarah & Will Glynn  
 Mike & Jan Halla  
 Meredith & David Homans  
 Charles & Mary Hussman  
 Terry & Mike Hyzer  
 Ann & Bob Karrick  
 Art & Beth Kidd  
 Rita LaDoux & Paul Swedenborg  
 Jennifer Lee  
 Tom & Diane Lentz  
 Peter & Roma Leuty  
 Mark Lindgren & Sharon Salzl  
 Karen & Mark Linne  
 John & Maureen Maloney  
 Teresa Marrone &  
 Bruce Bohnensting  
 Alex & Sharon Matusевичius  
 Dorothy & Michael McConville  
 Robert & Marveen Minish  
 Bill & Pamela Mittlefehldt

Linda Moss & Jim Jones  
 Pearl Muus  
 Diane Nelson  
 Bert & Bonnie Notermann  
 Karen & Pat O'Leary  
 Jeff & Diane Perkins  
 Robert & Linda Peterson  
 Patti Petty  
 Jean & Tom Probst  
 Krin & Peter Rauen  
 Rick Rocheford Jr. & Monica Foley  
 Darold & Martha Rosbacka  
 Judy & Tom Saeger  
 Jim & Pat Sanders  
 John Sanger  
 Alice & Ron Silkey  
 Bill & Sandra Struve  
 Denise & Patrick Tillges  
 Brian & Sue Wagner  
 Linda & Randy Werkheiser  
 Larry Wooding

**INDIVIDUAL  
 MEMBERSHIP \$30+**

Jane Anderson  
 Jenny Anderson  
 Werner Baur  
 Larry Bick  
 Jenny Bitter  
 William Boissenin  
 Nicole Boostrom  
 Jim Borden  
 Jerry Caple

Nate Carlson  
 Barbara Clark  
 Joan Foster Clyborne  
 Cheryl Dailey  
 Barbara Dock  
 Don Germain  
 Jonathan Grimes  
 Thomas Hayden  
 Majorie Johnson  
 Nancy Johnson  
 DeAnn Kautzmann  
 Kate Kelnberger  
 Aaron King  
 Carlene Krumpack  
 Kathleen Larson  
 Sue Lawson  
 Chester Lindskog  
 John Loth  
 Mary Joy Mayer  
 Dan Nelson  
 Nancy Niewald  
 Jean Sakry  
 Craig Samson  
 Ned Shepard  
 Robin Strangfield  
 Mark Tibbetts  
 Erik Tonkin  
 Ruth Westby  
 Susan Zimmerman  
 Michael Zlonis  
 Nick Zlonis

**REMEMBRANCES 2024**

The Gunflint Trail Historical Society takes time to honor with care and respect those who have recently passed. Remembering and sharing stories about those who have contributed to the community helps keep their memory alive and fosters a sense of connection among members.

The July GTHS membership meeting is a meaningful opportunity for members to come together and pay tribute to those who have left a lasting impact on the Gunflint Trail. Sharing stories and memories can be a powerful way to celebrate their lives and the contributions they made.

The GTHS invites members to inform them if anyone has been inadvertently missed, ensuring that all those who have passed are properly remembered and honored. This gesture reflects the Society's commitment to inclusivity and remembrance.

Susan Volkman Cable  
 Thomas Hendrickson, *Hungry Jack Lake*  
 Joan Swenson Elbers, *Gunflint Lake*  
 Tom Bettenhausen, *West Pope*  
 Eleanor Waha  
 Dave Etnier, *Saganaga Lake, Canadian Side*  
 Franklin "Frank" Jan Havlicek  
 Cynthia Cushman Schreiner, *Seagull Lake*  
 Carol Schaap, *Clearwater Lake*  
 Bob Carlson, *Clearwater Lake*  
 Sharon K. Ptak-Miles, *Tucker Lake*  
 Richard Cronstrom, *West Bearskin Lake*  
 Jessica R. Javener, *Clearwater Lake*  
 Greg Truex, *Seagull Lake*  
 Jean West, *Hungry Jack Lake*  
 Mary Ellen Holden Olson, *Clearwater*  
 Bob Morrison, *Hungry Jack Lake*  
 Lee Zopff, *Leo Lake, Clearwater Lodge*  
 Carol Byers, *Gunflint Lake*



Carol Byers



# THE GUNFLINT TRAIL *Historical Society*

"A Legacy of the Northwoods"

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