

President's Letter

Summer 2020

Dear Member:

If there is one thing we are all learning during the COVID-19 Pandemic is that we need to be flexible. We have had to alter our former way of doing things to accommodate the Pandemic. This has been especially difficult when celebrating special events like birthdays, weddings and funerals. The Pandemic is keeping us apart for obvious reasons, but it has also denied us our social interactions and curtailed the development of relationships. I kind of think of it as World War III in that all the world is fighting an enemy and the enemy has caused casualties. Some automobile plants and other manufacturers have retooled factories to produce the armaments of this war, namely ventilators, masks and other protective products. We have experienced shortages of goods and services much as the WWII generation did. We are also experiencing the cancellation of so many events like professional sports and musical concerts. The atomic bomb of this Pandemic could be an effective vaccine.

On a positive note, the Museum is now open for tours; just wear your mask and keep a safe, social distance. Our annual summertime fundraiser, Summer Fest, unfortunately had to be cancelled. However you

can still support the Museum by purchasing a ticket (making a donation) and the Museum will send you a \$10 gift card that can be used at one of the food or beverage sponsors of the event.

Nearby you will enjoy reading the interesting and well researched article about fur trade in west Michigan and the Lowell Area. Shantell Ford, administrative assistant for the Museum has done a wonderful job putting this article together. It is interesting how many of these early fur traders were related to one another.

Every five years for the past twenty years the Museum has carried out strategic planning. This has helped the organization establish goals, stay focused, emphasize its strengths and overcome its weaknesses. This year is the final year of our prior strategic plan, so we are now working on a new 5- year plan. Please let Lisa or a board member know if there are programs or events you would like to see or any ideas that you have to improve the Museum.

I hope you have a good summer. Stay safe and keep cool.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,
Jim Doyle
President

How the Red Arrow Name was Chosen for Lowell Area Schools



During the 1946-47 year, Coach Burch asked a group of students to choose an official mascot to represent Lowell High School.

This committee recommended "RED DEVILS" be adopted, the senior class voted to accept it, and Varsity sweaters and uniforms were quickly ordered. However, because church leaders and citizens of the community objected to the anti-Christian implications of the name, the Board refused

to sanction the name. *"It is the recommendation of the Board that a more fitting name be chosen," April, 1947.*

In the fall of 1947, Coach Burch, Superintendent Gumser and Principal Avery chose athlete representatives from each class to choose a less objectionable name. They chose "RED ARROWS." The name was officially adopted in 1947 and has been used ever since.

~Continued on back page



HISTORICAL MUSEUM

LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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We are on the web!
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How the Red Arrow Name was Chosen- *Continued from page 2*

Historically, there was significance to the new nickname. The Red Arrow was a Division of Michigan and Wisconsin men who fought in World War I and World War II. During World War I, they were nicknamed "Les Terribles" by the French because they repulsed every counter attack. This division was highly decorated and respected for their heroic deeds. During WWII, the 32nd "**Red Arrow**" Division of the United States Army gained fame for its fighting heroism in New Guinea and the Philippines. The Red Arrow unit recorded more combat time than any other unit and received commendations for bravery, courage and valor. No battleground territory defended by the 32nd was ever lost, and every attempt to break through enemy lines was successful. Their motto was "Never Yield!"



Judy Straub recently donated letters and arrows which were the first samples sent to Norm Borgerson, Jr. as he was one of the athlete representatives who helped choose the Red Arrow name. He had ordered red arrows but alas they were maroon and white.

Gordon Newell donated his Varsity Sweater which is also maroon. It currently displays both the red devil mascot which was originally ordered and the red arrow which was sanctioned. Gordon Newell and Norm Borgerson both were in the graduating LHS Class of 1950.

LOWELL AREA



HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Lowell Area Historical Museum Newsletter

Summer 2020

A New Kind of Summer Camp

The Lowell Area Historical Museum offers a camp for area youth each summer. For the first time, with social distancing, the 2020 Summer Camp moved online. The Museum is committed to bringing history alive to area youth and sought to find a fun and flexible way to present this year's camp while keeping everyone healthy and safe. This year's camp explored the fur trade era in Lowell.

Campers received three activities: Build a fur trade post model; Make a model canoe and Create Metis dot artwork. Access to videos created by the Museum show how to make each craft and provide some history. Campers also received a scavenger hunt to use in the new Lowell Township Park to further explore Lowell's fur trade.

The Museum provided a kit for each activity with all materials needed to create the crafts. Packages were then delivered to campers houses along with links to the videos needed. The camp is a great way to explore local history this summer.

"Thank you for finding a way to do a camp for the kids this summer!!"



The Lowell Area Historical Museum receives funding from:



Literacy Legacy Fund of Michigan

Funding to develop this new camp was provided by:



Summerfest

The Annual Fundraiser of the Lowell Area Historical Museum is going online for 2020

The Museum's annual fundraiser traditionally features local food, drinks, music and history set in the Museum garden and galleries. This year the Museum is observing social distancing and has decided to hold its fundraiser in a new way.

If you would like to help support the work of the Lowell Area Historical Museum, consider donating the regular \$40 ticket price and we will mail you a \$10 gift card to one of the local food or beverage businesses that would have participated.

We hope this online version of our fundraiser continues to support not only the Museum but also some of our local businesses that help to make it a success each year. We look forward to seeing you in person at next year's event!

The gift card feature is made possible by the support of our Sponsors.

Yes!

I would like to support the Lowell Area Historical by donating the cost of a ticket to the Annual Fundraiser. Please mail this form and a check to Lowell Area Historical Museum PO Box 81 Lowell, MI 49331.

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Number of "Tickets" _____ x \$40

Please select one \$10 gift card per ticket that you would like to receive. Gift cards will be mailed to the address listed above.

Gift Card choices-please circle choice (s)

BC Pizza

Big Boiler Brewery

Gravel Bottom Brewery

Heidi's Farmstand

Larkins Restaurant

Miss P's Catering (5% off bill)

New Union Brewery

Red Barn/Painted Turtle

Sneakers

Thank you to our sponsors for supporting the Museum fundraiser and local businesses!

