

# The Lake Area Preserver



White Bear Lake Area Historical Society

Winter 2008

## Lake Levels Have Their Ups And Downs

Over time the level of the water in area lakes has been one of the most recurring topics debated by residents, government officials, and visitors alike. In the 1930s Goose Lake ran completely dry and was being used for agriculture while Birch Lake was nearly as drained. During certain periods pumps were used to enhance nature's ability to keep the water flowing, but that practice was also controversial and much debated. How much was too much? What was the perfect amount? This practice has been eliminated in our area, but the level of our lakes is still a common topic for discussion.

Today people say White Bear Lake has never been lower and often question whether it is going to dry up completely. It's hard to envision, but the lake has been worse in years past. Let's hope it will once again rebound due in part to human efforts and in part to nature itself since it is the treasure that touches so much of our community.



LAKE AVENUE, 1989-1990  
(PHOTO DONATED BY JERRY ENGEN)



MANITOU ISLAND BRIDGE, 1989-1990  
(PHOTO DONATED BY JERRY ENGEN)



COTTAGE PARK, 1989-1990  
(PHOTO DONATED BY JERRY ENGEN)

# Historic House Tour 2008 - A Great Success!

The Historic House Tour 2008 surpassed the stats of the previous year by nearly 50%! Seven hundred people came out to enjoy the hospitality of our ten home owners and their sponsors. This very important fundraiser for the Historical Society was a great success and would not have been possible without...

## Signature Sponsor

Sarah Boo, DDS PA

## House and Amenities Sponsors

Coldwell Banker Burnet

DCA Title

Edina Realty

Floral Intentions

Husnik Homes

Jamie Ogden Team

Joy Erickson

Kathy Madore

Mainstreet, Inc.

Montgomery Appraisal

Pat McGrath

The Picture Place

## Homeowners and Donors

Paul Chapin

Mark & Evelyn Duvall

Peter Hagstrom

Dave & Julie Kraai

Beth LaBreche & Eric Johnson

Robert & Karen Larson

Alan & Dede Lorentzen

Andrew & Linda Power

Mark & Rebecca Shavlik

Nicholas & Jane Van Brunt

Nancy Mueller

Ingredients Café

Veolia Environmental Services

White Bear Country Inn & Rudy's Redeye Grill

White Bear Lake Lion's Club

White Bear Press & Press Publications

Nearly 200 volunteers were necessary to make things run smoothly. Whether you were staffing a house, selling tickets or driving a pontoon ferry, we appreciate all that you did to make this event a success.



The White Bear Lake Area Historical Society appreciates all of the time and energy **Flora Lee Rauch** has contributed to our organization. First as a board member leading countless tours and events at the Fillebrown House and most recently as a depot volunteer where her smiling face has greeted many visitors. Her presence at the depot will be missed as she's completing her tenure there, but we hope to continue to see **Flora Lee** at many of the functions at the Fillebrown House for years to come! Thank you **Flora Lee**!

We would not be able to provide many of our programs and events without our numerous volunteers who make things happen. Whether it is giving tours at the House, sorting papers at the Resource Library or answering questions for visitors, we rely heavily on the help of our volunteers. Thank you to all of you—new and continuing! For more information on what you may be able to do to help please contact Meg at 651-407-5327.

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## Hometown Business – Auto Glass Express

**R**eed Vanderzee started Auto Glass Express in September of 2000 and moved into its present location at 1352 County Rd E in November of 2001. During the past 8 years, Auto Glass Express has gained strong business relationships with local insurance agencies, car dealerships and companies with large fleets.

Auto Glass Express has been a strong community supporter both financially and as a frequent provider of volunteer services through the local Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, 916 Foundation Board, White Bear Events, 2009 Governor's Fishing Opener and White Bear Lake Area Historical Society.

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### A Special Thank You to Our Hometown Business Members



Auto Glass Express  
Commercial Printing  
Hisdahl, Inc.  
Hoffman Corner Heating & Air  
Conditioning  
Judy King Estate Sales

Knutsen Auto  
Mélange  
Mortgage Works  
Mueller Lake Mortuary  
Sunbear Salon & Spa  
Ursula's Wine Bar & Café  
Vacation Sports  
White Bear Country Inn/Rudy's  
Red Eye Grill  
White Bear Eye Clinic

#### Organizations:

Lakeshore Players  
White Bear Lake Lion's Club

For information on how your  
business can be a WBLAHS Home-  
town Business Member please  
contact Sara at 651-407-5327

## Mission

### Statement of the White Bear Lake Area Historical Society

**T**he White Bear Lake Area Historical Society connects the community to its past, fostering an understanding and appreciation for our history. We fulfill our mission by...

- Gathering and maintaining historical information and artifacts.  
*We are safe keepers of our heritage.*
- Educating the community about our history.  
*We are the community storytellers.*
- Encouraging personal and community responsibility for preserving our physical links to the past.  
*We are advocates for historical preservation.*

**Learning from  
Our Past,  
Preserving for  
Our Future.**

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## WBLAHS 2008 Board of Directors

**Peter Reis**, President      **Holly Geck**, Past President  
**Jenni Corbett**, Secretary      **Jo Emerson**, Treasurer  
**Christy Gutt**, Education Liaison  
**Keith Hisdahl**, Community Liaison  
**Kathy Hoelscher**, Planned Giving & Development  
**Jan Holtz**, At-Large  
**Lin Lindbeck**, Fillebrown House, Out-house  
**Tom Rice**, At-Large  
**Meg Todd**, Membership & Promotion

The WBLAHS is currently seeking board members for the following position: Programs

For more information on becoming a board member please contact Peter Reis at 651-426-1268 or Sara Hanson at 651-407-5327.

## From the Director's Desk...



As we encounter the uncertain economic times that lie ahead, I am once again reminded of the

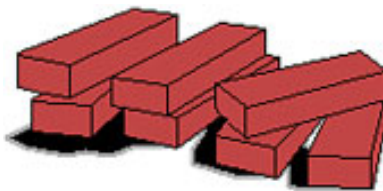
generosity of our members. The WBLAHS relies on that generosity to maintain the Fillebrown House, to collect and preserve the stories and images of our community and provide quality programs and events which help to share those stories.

Please remember the WBLAHS with a year-end gift as 2008 comes to a close. Without your support we could not do the important work we strive so hard to accomplish.

Happy Holidays!

-Sara

## Pavers Make a Great Gift



Just can't find the perfect gift for that special person?

The White Bear Lake Area Historical Society's paver program is the solution for you! Give a permanent legacy to commemorate a parent, an anniversary, a birth or any other special occasion or person for just \$250. In addition to being able to see their paver gracing the walk to the Fillebrown House for years to come the recipient will be a guest of honor at an event to dedicate the new set of pavers. For more information please contact Sara Hanson at 651-407-5327.

## Proudly Serving

The White Bear Lake Area Historical Society is proud to serve the following communities:

- Birchwood
- Dellwood
- Mahtomedi
- White Bear Lake
- White Bear Township



If you have a story, pictures, or any information that you would like to share, please contact Sara at 651-407-5327

## Jean's Jottings

For the holiday open house, we are fortunate to have 4 local musicians scheduled to play holiday favorites. Gary Andresen will play Scandinavian folk music on the guitar, a volunteer with the American Harp Society will also perform and members, Lynette Campbell and Charley Bathke, will tickle the ivories on Helen Fillebrown's Steinway piano. These volunteers are not only giving of their time to entertain the public, but they are actually thanking us for the opportunity! Please help ensure the success of these events by marking them on your calendar and attending.

Doug and Jan Holtz Kraemer will carry on the tradition of supplying and putting up the annual Christmas tree at the Fillebrown House. On November 30 all are welcome to help decorate the tree and the house. Holiday music, treats and door prizes will be provided. Please plan on attending and helping to ready the Fillebrown House for the festive season.

I am also thrilled to report continued progress on the school curriculum that we have been developing for several years. Sara and I have had several meetings with school district staff and their response to our presentations has been very positive. Currently we are adapting the curriculum to be accessible from our website and should have this phase of the project in place by the end of the year. This will enable its use by teachers, home-school families and anyone who is interested as well as being adaptable to the latest classroom technology including smartboards.

Looking toward the new year, I would like to plan monthly roundtable discussions on various historical topics. If any members have any input into what subjects they would like to hear discussed, please call me at the 407-5327. Thank you.

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**THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S 2009 HISTORIC PHOTO  
CALENDAR IS NOW AVAILABLE AT THE DEPOT MUSEUM. THE  
CALENDARS SELL FOR \$7.95 EACH AND MAKE A GREAT GIFT. A  
LIMITED QUANTITY ARE AVAILABLE SO GET YOURS SOON!**

2009 CALENDAR - DECEMBER PHOTO AND CAPTION



**UNDER THE CHRISTMAS TREE – DECEMBER 25, 1964**

*Many homes in the White Bear Lake area had a Christmas tree for the holidays. Soon after Thanksgiving local organizations used the season as a means of fund raising and would open a tree lot—often at Railroad Park along Washington Avenue. Often family traditions included the whole family venturing to the park to pick out their favorite tree and haul it home for decorating..*

**Don't Miss the Chance  
to Give the Best Gift in Town!**

*White Bear: A History*, by Catherine Carey (\$49.95)

**Just released!**

*A Walk Through Dellwood*, by Paul Clifford Larson (\$39.95)

*Looking Back at White Bear Lake: A Pictorial History of the White Bear Lake Area*, by Cynthia Vadnais (\$32.95) **New soft cover version!**

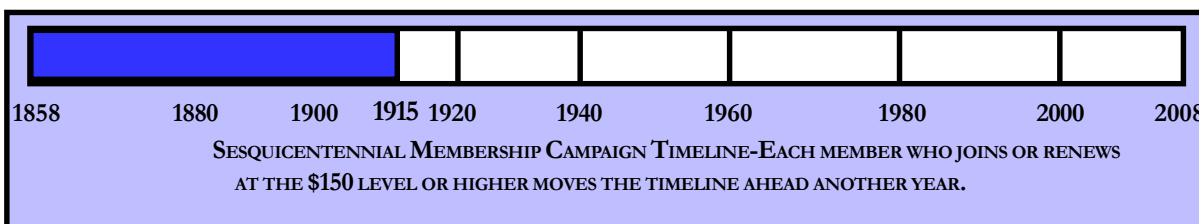
See the survey about new programs (in this issue) to learn how you could get a discount on these and other titles at the Depot Gift Shop.



**Your Society in Action**

The WBLAHS is proud to announce that with the recent upgrade and redesign of Lake Avenue the City of White Bear Lake has included two historic markers. This installment is considered to be the first of an on-going project to increase the interpretation of our area's history in public spaces.

The locations for the first two markers are at the entrance to Lake Avenue off of Highway 61 and at the foot of Shady Lane where the largest of White Bear's American Indian mounds once stood. The Historical Society worked closely with the City to provide the text and images for the markers. Next time you're out and about along Lake Avenue check out the newest markers of White Bear's history.



**Calendar of Events**

For more details on these events and more visit [whitebearhistory.org](http://whitebearhistory.org) or call 651-407-5327.

- FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>** 6p.m.-? **Member's Christmas Party** at the Fillebrown House
- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>** 12-2p.m. *White Bear: A History* **Book Signing** at Cub Foods of White Bear Township
- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>** Noon *White Bear: A History* **Book Signing** at St. John in the Wilderness Church
- THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>** 6:30p.m.-7:30p.m. **Children's Story Time** at the Fillebrown House
- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>** 12-2p.m. *White Bear: A History* **Book Signing** at Festival Foods (Vadnais Heights)
- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>** 1-4p.m. *A Walk Through Dellwood* **Book Signing** at the Warden's House, Washington County Historical Society, Stillwater
- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>** 1p.m.-4p.m. **Holiday Open House** at the Fillebrown House
- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>** 2-4p.m. *White Bear: A History* **Book Signing** at White Bear Township Theatre
- SATURDAY, JANUARY 3<sup>RD</sup>** 10a.m.-? **Taking Down of the Greens** at the Fillebrown House

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# New Programs at the White Bear Lake Area Historical Society

Share your memories with us!

The WBLAHS would like to gather the stories of our community through a series of round-table discussions at the Fillebrown House and we need your suggestions.

## Proposed topics include:

WWII stories from the field and the homefront  
Growing up in White Bear in the 1930s, '40s and beyond  
Recreation on the lake - fishing, boating, picnics and more  
Gangster memories of the area  
Bald Eagle Community

## Monthly Lecture Series

We are also exploring the possibility of a monthly speaker series that would include a variety of topics and be available at little or no cost to WBLAHS members. Possible topics being considered for this endeavor include:

American Indians in the White Bear Area  
Victorian customs  
Christmas ornaments through history

We would like your input!

I think \_\_\_\_\_ would make a great topic/  
speaker for the WBLAHS.

I would be likely to attend a program if it was held on a (check all that apply)

Weekday      Weekday evening      Saturday morning      Sunday afternoon

I would be willing to attend a program if it was (check all that apply)

Free      \$0-5      \$6-10      \$11-15      \$16-20      more than \$20

Please complete and return to WBLAHS, PO Box 10543, White Bear Lake, MN 55110 or drop at the Depot and receive 10% off in the Depot Gift Shop.



TO SHARE YOUR  
MEMORIES IN  
FUTURE ISSUES,  
CONTACT:

**SARA MARKOE HANSON  
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WHITE BEAR LAKE, MN  
55110  
651-407-5327**

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