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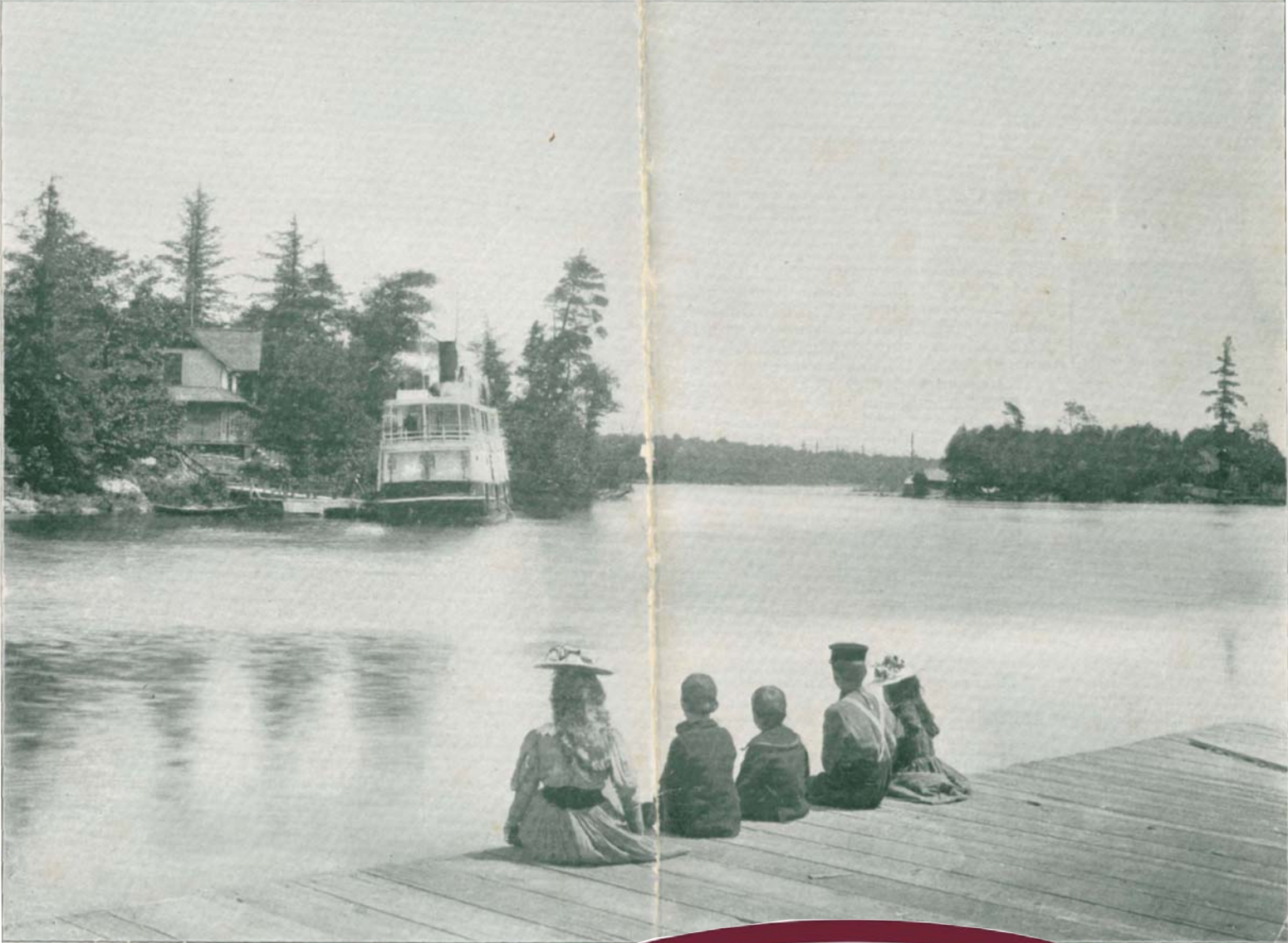
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ABOUT US

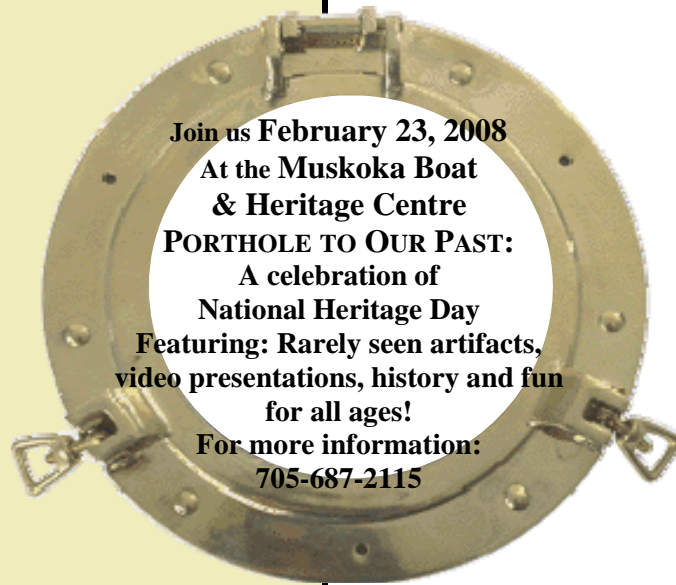


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 Submissions are welcome, but may be edited
 for clarity and brevity.
 Spring Issue submission deadline: March 31



Join us February 23, 2008
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 & Heritage Centre
PORTHOLE TO OUR PAST:
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 National Heritage Day
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 video presentations, history and fun
 for all ages!
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Tickets from 100 Mile Cruise



President's Message

In this, and future issues of the Real Muskoka Story, we wish to emphasize the many facets of life on Muskoka waters through an expanded look at the inter relationship between commercial steamships, private watercraft and life on the shoreline. Whether it was a canoe or rowing skiff meeting one of the steamships at a landing or a classic wooden launch carrying passengers on to a cottage or smaller resort the interaction with the ships formed an important part of our Muskoka heritage.

While perpetuation and celebration of the steamship has been the genesis of our organization, the real Muskoka story is more historically complete and, to many, it is more interesting when we view our

integrated history.

In addition, we wish to include, more news relating to the many activities of the Historical Society and the individuals who are contributing to the cultural heritage of Muskoka.

The end of the sailing season and the approaching end of the calendar years marks an important time to be thankful for the continued great efforts of management, staff and volunteers that have worked to help make the 2007 season safe on the water and appealing to the visitors who traveled the ships and visited the Heritage Centre. Together, we have made a significant contribution to the culture of Muskoka.

On behalf of your Board of Directors I extend best wishes to

all members and supporters along with management, staff and volunteers for this holiday season and the New Year.

- Murray Walker

Muskoka Heritage Foundation

By Christi Gardner



L to R: Mary Storey, Hank Smith, Murray Walker, Ron Sclater, Ian Turnbull. Photo courtesy of Darren Lum

The Muskoka Steamship and Historical Society received the Built Heritage Stewardship Award from the Muskoka Heritage Foundation this October, for the

Muskoka Boat and Heritage Centre. This award was created as a means to recognize and encourage the preservation and appreciation of historical structures, sites, and artifacts by providing information and recognizing private stewards. This

annual stewardship program recognizes the commitment that the Muskoka Steamship and Historical Society has made to preserving and appreciating the

Purser's Ticket		Amount Paid
No 0823		5 1 00
		10 2 00
		15 3 00
		20 4 00
		25 5 00
		40 6 00
		45 7 00
		50 8 00
		55 9 00
		75 10 00
		20 00
GRAVENHURST STEAMSHIPS LIMITED GRAVENHURST, ONTARIO To be punched and handed to passenger at time fare is paid. Punch marks will indicate the Ports from and to, number of passengers travelling on ticket, fare paid, whether one way or return, and date of issue. This ticket is not transferable. Baggage Liability Limited to Fifty Dollars on Wearing Apparel Only	Natural Park	June
	Elgin House	Jul.
	Port Sandfield	Aug.
	Minnit	Sept.
	Thorel House	
	Morinus	
	The Bluff	
	Rest Harbour	
	Royal Muskoka	Date
	Juddhaven	1 2 3
	Rostrevor	4 5 6
	King's Park	7 8 9
	Wlgwassan	10 11 12
	Windermere	13 14 15
	Ferndale	16 17 18
Port Carling	19 20 21	
	22 23 24	
	25 26 27	
	28 29 30	
Port Keewaydin	31	
Beaumaris	One Way	
Walker's Point	Return	
Glen Echo	Half Fare	
Muskoka Wharf	Number	
Read Up	Passengers	
	1 2 3 4	
Read Down	5 6 7 8	
	9 10	

Original Purser Ticket—Gravenhurst Steamships

heritage of our area, and also in securing this cultural legacy for younger generations. Some of the criteria for recipients of this award include promoting a harmonious blend of the best of the past, present and future recognizing "heritage" as a living tradition and demonstrating to people of all ages the importance of preserving our built heritage.

Muskoka Steamships

Operations Report, By John Miller, General Manager



The summer of 2007 was another very successful one for the Society. The ships saw their public passenger total increase by 2% over 2006, a small number but certainly worthy of mention given the “perfect storm” attacking the tourism industry the past five years.

In addition to the GPS units reported in the last issue, the ships also added defibrillators on board and an additional 100 children's' lifejackets as part of our ongoing commitment to crew and passenger safety. We look to further enhance our crew education on safety as we have teamed up with the Muskoka Ambulance Service to conduct in-water evacuation and man overboard drills next spring.

Each winter we try to source the best coal that will suit our boiler and help reduce our emissions. This year we are researching various methods of drafting techniques in an effort to increase our burning efficiency and reduce the amount of fuel that leaves our stack. A number of experts are assisting with the project and the improvements should be noticeable next June!

Since 2002 our major capital projects include a new freight deck on Segwun, the Islander Dining Room addition, phase one of the Nipissing Lounge, Segwun washrooms renovation, a major engine overhaul in 2004 and the Wanda Hull Restoration....all great improvements but the greatest is the reduction of debt.

In the past five years we have reduced the Royal Bank Wenonah Construction debt by over one million dollars from the original two million borrowed, a huge accomplishment and tribute to strong board vision and the money managing talents of our controller, Molly Rivers. Now for the next five years.....

The Muskoka Boat & Heritage Centre also saw an increase in visitors over 2006 and finished the 2nd year of operation on budget, a great accomplishment with the Muskoka Wharf being only 50% complete.

With strong volunteer contributions and exciting new programs, the Centre is positioned for a busy winter season. Our three year programming plan is taking shape and 2008 will host the best exhibits yet! Watch our website for details.

Look beside the Centre and you will see the beginning of the Marriot Hotel. Slated for

opening early 2009, the hotel promises to compliment the Muskoka Wharf and our two attractions. We look forward to partnering with the Marriot to bring more people to Gravenhurst and to provide the meeting and convention market a package they will find hard to refuse.

Two highly regarded members of our team have moved on to new challenges this year. Cathy Tait, our Sales Manager, is now in charge of bringing Festivals and Events to the Muskoka Wharf as well as some diverse, aggressive programming to the Heritage Centre. Randy Potts, Segwun Captain, has left us to build his own small charter vessel operation on the lakes. We thank Cathy and Randy for their contribution to our success and wish them both smooth sailing!

IN Recognition of our Corporate Members

- B&B International Shipping Inc.
- Bielecki & Associates
- Braecon Northern Ltd .
- Cadillac Fairview Corp. Ltd.
- Bracebridge Canadian Tire Associate Store
- Chamberlain Tim-Br Mart
- Computer Muskoka
- David Barkey Decorating
- Ditchburn House Antiques
- Du Vernet Photography
- Gravenhurst Home Hardware
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- Jamie Mortimer Construction
- Knapp's Gravenhurst Furniture
- Lovegrove Construction
- Malvern Contract Interiors Limited
- Muskoka Bay Gallery
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- Muskoka Lakes Gardens & More
- Muskoka Launch & Motor Co.
- Muskoka TODAY
- Osler Business Consultants Ltd.
- Larry Boese/REMAX Lake Country Realty
- Scott's of Muskoka
- Stevenson Plumbing & Electric
- Taboo Resort Golf Conference Centre
- Terry's Independent Grocer
- The Artstract Co.
- The Granite Restaurant
- The Pioneer Group Inc.
- Tilley Endurables Inc.
- Total Cleaning & Restoration
- Waite Fuels
- Walkers Point Marina
- Water's Edge Landscaping
- Watts Printing
- Wine not

From the Grace and Speed Boathouse...

Muskoka Boat & Heritage Centre

Muskoka Boat and Heritage Centre is fortunate to have a replica of *Miss Canada III* as the feature boat inside for this winter. It is a replica of a famous 1938 Greavette race boat built in Gravenhurst. This 24' boat was built by Duke Marine Services, Port Carling in 1987. The original boat won many races including



Miss Canada II on display now in the exhibit hall

the President's Cup Race in 1939 in Washington DC with Harold Wilson of Ingersoll, Ontario at the controls. She later set a North American speed record of 119 mph.

In the boathouse and carefully placed on beams for the winter are:

Lightning – a 28' 1905 replica open cockpit launch with a rare early vintage engine

Nipissing – a 1890's working steam launch with canopy whose manufacturer is unknown

Pistoff – a 36 foot contemporary speed boat built in 1980 with two 550 hp engines

Traveller – a 30 foot 1894 hardtop launch built by Jake

Swartman on Georgian Bay

10 to 12 – a 22' 1959 Greavette Comet, previously owned by Gordon Sinclair.

Simon's Choice – a 16' 1957 Peterborough cedar stripe with twin outboards

Copper – a 19' Duke centre drive Playmate

A 1917 Disappearing Propeller Boat, probably the oldest known "Dippy"

A 1939 14' sailboat built by Ackroyd with cedar planking on steam-bent white oak frames.

By John Storey

Volunteering at MBHC

By Louise Boese, Volunteer Coordinator

Our volunteers make the difference in helping the history of Muskoka become alive and real! They are the vital component in making The Real Muskoka Experience an enjoyable one for our visitors! Our volunteers interact with them on some of the cruises this season. This resulted in a greater number of cruise patrons visiting the Muskoka Boat & Heritage Centre. Customers enjoyed having these representatives on board to answer any questions they had regarding the Heritage Centre or the Steamships.

A pizza luncheon was held October 31st for students of Gravenhurst High School who showed interest at a recent Student

Volunteer Fair to complete their 40 hours of community service by volunteering at the Heritage

Centre. Students were also given a guided tour of the Centre after the lunch. We are excited at the prospect of having some of these students joining our volunteer team!

Since volunteers are such an integral part of The Real Muskoka Experience, recruitment continues to be an

active and ongoing procedure. We invite you to consider this volunteering opportunity as well!



Wednesday Work Gang members Paul Johnson and Bill Niess decorating the Muskoka Boat & Heritage Centre for Christmas. We weren't sure if they had ever actually seen a Christmas tree. This was surely a new experience for both. ☺

*Oh the weather outside is frightful,
Inside the Muskoka Boat & Heritage Centre
It's so delightful!*

By Ann Curley, Operations Manager

This winter the Muskoka Boat & Heritage Centre will feature a variety of events and activities along with new and interesting exhibits.

New and Upcoming Exhibits

- Miss Canada III graces the main floor exhibit area
- Winter animals from the Algonquin Park Museum will be on the 2nd floor exhibit area in late December
- Antique & Collectable telephones will be on exhibit by

late December

- Dispro Exhibit will start in small sections and the full exhibit will be complete by mid April

Heritage Collection Gift Shop

helps make your Christmas shopping easy this year with our new arrivals along with some amazing sale items. So come in out of the cold and enjoy a morning or afternoon at the Muskoka Boat & Heritage Centre, where you can see the new exhibits, enjoy a movie



Our float as it prepares for the Gravenhurst Santa Claus Parade. The float was put together by a group of hardworking volunteers from the Special Events Committee as well as many of our Wenonah II Pirates and children and grandchildren of the volunteers.

“Dreamboats of Muskoka” or enjoy a cup of coffee or tea.

Membership Matters

With the end of November, we close another Membership year with the Muskoka Steamship & Historical Society. As was discussed in the Fall newsletter, December 1, 2007 is the start of the 2008 season, and our yearly members (those who do not have a Life Membership) will find enclosed a Membership Renewal Form.

The Membership Committee is continually at work to provide to provide the best possible experience to our Members. With this in mind, we have revised our benefit package for Members for 2008. Most notable will be that all members are now entitled to free admission to the Muskoka Boat & Heritage Centre. We will also be expanding the Monthly Members Day at the Heritage Centre to the

By John Glendinning, Membership Committee Co-Chair

2nd Saturday of every month starting January 12, 2008. On these days, Members will be offered special pricing at the Gift Shops or will be invited to attend special Member Events and Programs. Members will be informed via email and announcements in the newsletters of what is offered each month. Also of interest, look for our expanded Junior Member Program, which will be introduced over the next couple of months. For a full list of benefits for 2008, please see the enclosed Membership renewal form. We believe that the addition of these new benefits, combined with those already provided, give a significant advantage to being part of the Society for our current Members, as well as make it much more attractive for new members to join.

The Membership Committee work

to provide the most for our Members while at the same time keeping the cost of membership as low as possible. It has been necessary to introduce a small price increase of approximately 10% from the 2007 rates to offset increased costs. We will continue to do our best to keep your memberships at an affordable level.

There are a number of events coming up for Members, including the Christmas Open House at the Heritage Centre on December 29. Please have a look at the Events Calendar insert for a complete list.

If you have any comments or suggestions, or if I can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me through the membership email address (membership@mbhc.ca).

Seasons Greetings to you and all of your family and Happy Sailing!

PD Day at Muskoka Boat & Heritage Centre

By Cathie Dickson, Education Committee Chair

On November 16th the Education Committee of the Heritage Centre hosted on a PD Day with 14 eager boys and girls. Our theme was decorating for Christmas in pioneer times. We had a variety of activities for the boys and girls and they were enthusiastic about everything. The crafts included stringing popcorn and cranberries, Christmas card shapes, rug hooking, sewing felt cut-out shapes, pomander oranges with cloves, paper bird making and corking. We rounded out the day with tours of the Heritage Centre, story reading and pioneer games both

inside and outside. Many thanks to those involved in the day, Pat Scammel, Mary Storey, Mary Patterson, Pat Wright, Donna Irwin and Ann Curley. The day was fun for us with the sharing of ideas and helping each other to make the day go smoothly. Be sure to check out the Christmas tree in the hotel to see the various crafts and decorating by the boys and girls.



Education



Archives

By Mary Storey, Archives Chair

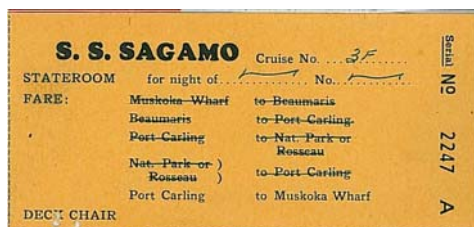
The Historical Society Archives are a busy place this fall. A committee of ten volunteers is seen each and every Thursday from October to May working in this room. Documenting, organizing, sorting and filing each and every article is very time consuming.

Last year the 4500 photos were sorted, labeled and placed in filing cabinets. The post cards, books, photo albums, brochures and magazines were also organized. The task for this year is to enter the 4000 objects into a computer data base. This task will involve taking a digital picture, measuring, finding the history of and entering

this data into the newly created data base program. If you would be interested in helping with this task or have articles that pertain to our themes, please contact the Heritage Centre at 705-687-2115.



Grand Trunk Railway System ticket stub



Ticket from the S.S. Sagamo



1931 Muskoka Lakes Navigation & Hotel Company

Did You Know?

The Muskoka Boat & Heritage Centre Gift Shop is open year round, and we constantly receive new merchandise.

Gift Certificates make excellent Christmas gifts. You can purchase a gift certificate toward a cruise with Muskoka Steamships any time by calling our ticket office: 1-866-687-6667. You can also purchase a gift certificate toward admissions to the Muskoka Boat and Heritage Centre at the Gift Shop.

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In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of two of our dear friends: John Davidson, a former director of the Muskoka Steamship & Historical Society and Jack Hastings, a former director and former president of Muskoka Lakes Navigation and Hotel Company.



On the Front Cover: Kenozha at Bala. Owned by Muskoka Lakes Navigation Company, the Kenozha was built by M. Simpson in Gravenhurst and launched in May of 1883. Aug 11 1908 – Near Beaumaris after a passenger exchange, while both ships were coming about, Kenozha's bow

struck the port side of the Sagamo. Kenozha didn't sail again that season. The Mate was blamed for the accident as he was drunk on duty. Captain Hansen did not notice his Mate's drunken state and so both were fired. August 15 1918 – Now the oldest ship in the fleet, (In her 35th season) Kenozha caught fire where she was berthed for the night at Stanley House on the northern part of Lake Joseph. The crew of 14 barely had enough time to abandon ship before she reached the state of a "crackling inferno". The Captain and Purser, who had both been asleep at the time, had to jump over the side leaving behind their clothing, money, and personal effects. The blazing ship was cut loose from the dock and drifted to the shallow water at the north side of

Stanley Bay where she grounded and burnt to the waterline, and then sank. It is said that her skeleton is still visible beneath the water in Stanley Bay.



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Muskoka Steamship & Historical Society

The Real Muskoka Experience



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