

# OBHS News

Volume X, Issue 6

December 10, 2008

Newsletter of the Old-Brule Heritage Society, Inc. ©2008  
Founded in 1998 to Preserve and Share the Heritage of the Old-Brule Region.

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### DECEMBER OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY CHRISTMAS (REGULAR) MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 6 P.M., DECEMBER 10, 2008, AT THE AMNICON TOWN HALL.

*Program: Northwestern High School English Instructor and long time local 4H Leader Pat Luostari will give a talk on the History of the 4H in the Local Region.*

WE WILL BEGIN OUR EVENING WITH OUR POT LUCK CHRISTMAS SUPPER, FOLLOWED BY OUR SPEAKER, AND THEN OUR BUSINESS MEETING.

FINALLY, OUR GIFT EXCHANGE WILL CLOSE THE EVENING. MERRY CHRISTMAS!

**ALL MEMBERS AND GUESTS ARE WELCOME!**

**Thanks to the Town of Amnicon for the use of their Hall, and to all those serving.**

#### FROM THE PRESIDENT:

OBHS members have worked hard and completed several projects this past year. One of the most noticed and serviceable is the handicap accessible "memorial" sidewalk on the Davidson Windmill grounds. This was built by Dave Pooler Construction along with the men from OBHS who have volunteered many hours of work. The Windmill and Eskolin House site looks great! Also we can't forget the women who have provided meals and lunches for the volunteers. The flag pole was a nice addition. Designated memorial monies and Paul Colby generated grants have been used for this project.

A shed was built late this summer, giving us more room for storage. (The lumber for the shed was almost all donated, coming from Eddie Walman, and Arnold and Doris Perala. The shingles were sawn by Gerald Tutor and his brother from donated cedar logs.)

Inside the Eskolin house we are very fortunate to now have a nice wood burning stove. This stove was donated by Ron Hendrickson, our new Treasurer. The house is very comfortable with a warm atmosphere.

Jack Pank has kept the grass cut and the grounds looking groomed and neat.

This is a brief summary of the happenings at the Davidson Windmill site, which is not complete. We enjoy what we're doing - we are preserving our local past. At the time of this writing the shutters for the Eskolin House have been installed, and the front door is on order. We hired John Lundeen to do these projects.

We invite you to come to our meetings which are always posted in our newsletter and on our Website. We now conduct Windmill Committee and Board meetings at the Eskolin House (weather permitting). The coffee is always on. You will enjoy a little of the past and bring back good memories.

I want to thank all of our volunteers. Without you there wouldn't be any progress.

With the holiday season approaching I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you a blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!

Sincerely,  
Alice Christensen

p.s. Let us all remember the less fortunate!

**FROM THE EDITOR:**

Life is full of routine obligations and challenges that we must be willing to address and manage as we face each day. Despite our best managed life (and mine is not that!) other things pop up that must be addressed immediately, if not sooner, often matters of health. It seems that Life has put me and those around me through a patch of these “pop ups” lately. It feels like I am grinding through my days, with everything taking that much more energy and commitment. Priorities continue to shift as I try to operate within my finite limits.

This is all at the personal level, and many of you can relate to my situation. But there is a much wider world out there that seems to have entered its own rough patch. There are many who are losing their jobs, and their dreams. Setting priorities for many of these people is far more bleak. The collective economic order has begun to convulse in ways we have not seen in all our lives. Where will we all be when we emerge from this economic turbulence?

I thank you all for your patience as I try to meet my routine, and “pop up”, challenges, but our OBHS president’s p.s. above is something that we must take seriously, beyond this Season of love and caring. As those at the center of our larger governments struggle for answers that might not be there, we must recall that help for our neighbors is the foundation of sound community life. Our small local governments were formed to allow us to better care for one another. But as we care for one another, we must take care of these, our local structures of service as well. Some of the current convulsing might have to do with forgetting this fact at high levels of government and finance.

-Jim Pellman

**2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009 OLD-BRULE HISTORY PHOTO CALENDARS FOR SALE.**

The Brule History Research Group, organized in 1995, produced its eighth and final calendar in 2005 with pictures of Brule’s past. Proceeds of these annual calendar sales since 1998, when the first one was produced, are being used for the publication of the history of Brule, hopefully to be completed soon. Limited numbers of their 2005 calendar and earlier issues are still available. To order any of these calendars by mail, please write or call Janet Follis, P.O. Box 114, Brule, WI 54820, (715) 372-4948.

Continuing in the BHRG calendar tradition, the *2009 Old-Brule Heritage Society History Photo Calendar* is now available at \$7.00 each. Our earlier calendars are also available at \$5.00 (2005, 2006) and \$6.00 (2008) in limited numbers. The 2009 calendar is available from O-BHS members or at limited local business outlets. An e-mail address for more info: [musketeer6@cheqnet.net](mailto:musketeer6@cheqnet.net), and phone: 715-363-2549, or check our Web site at [www.oldbrule.org](http://www.oldbrule.org). Shipping and handling costs are \$3.50 each. The 2009 calendar will be going to print this week.

**OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THE *OBHS NEWS* ARE THOSE OF THE WRITERS ALONE AND ARE NOT INTENDED TO REPRESENT OFFICIAL POSITIONS OF THE O-BHS ORGANIZATION.**

**ARCHIVES/COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE.**

The Archives Committee would welcome other volunteers to help us in this important part of the OBHS mission. Our continuing project is learning to use the computer in support of our work, scanning documents and photos, storing records and creating databases. Our thanks to our loyal committee members and contributors, and to the Town of Maple for archive space. If you enjoy exacting work please join us at 1 p.m. at the Pellmans’ some Monday afternoon. Next meetings: January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009, 1:00 p.m. Please call 363-2549 to confirm meeting time and place.

**Unapproved GENERAL MEETING MINUTES  
OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.  
Brule Town Hall, October 8, 2008, 6:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Following refreshments and an interesting and informative presentation by Josh McIntyre from the Department of Natural Resources on the History of the Brule Valley and Current State Forest Policies, Alice Christianson called the meeting to order at 7:43 p.m.

**MINUTES:** Hope Swenson made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous General Meeting. (The minutes for the June 18, 2008 meeting, held at the Lakeside Town Hall, were printed in the OBHS Newsletter, August 2008.) Nancy Wiitala seconded the motion; the minutes were approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer Ron Hendrickson was absent; no report was available.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Davidson Windmill Committee Report:**

**Apple Festival:** There was a good turnout during the Apple Festival on October 1-3. Ron has reported total revenue of approximately \$700.00. In contrast to the Sunday of Midsummer weekend, we had continuous visitors during Sunday, especially in the afternoon as travelers returned from Bayfield.

**Sidewalk:** About 170 pavers have been ordered, with over 830 still available. Over time, as people see them in place, more orders are anticipated. Not all of them will be completed before snow falls. Engraving is the most time-consuming part of the process, but it can be done during the winter. Following the cutting, the letters will be blackened with a permanent black marker and then sealed with a good-quality lacquer. Laila M. thought that "Rub-a-Dub" might work well. Alice has a list of people who will assist. She will also check on a cement sealer.

**Grounds:** A workday is scheduled for 10/15. Eddie will make sure that creosoted or green-treated ties are available in the morning. Sidewalk benches need to be done now; other furniture decisions can be delayed. Painting of the flagpole and placement of the ball can be accomplished next spring. We have learned that we cannot leave the large American flag up, as it appears that it has been stolen. Ron H. has installed the National Register of Historic Places brass plaque on the mill.

Eddie and Alice volunteered to do what is necessary to protect the trees this fall.

Our Memorial tree for 2008 should be planted now in memory of Cassius Christianson, Margie Koski, Kenneth Magnuson, Reuben Wiitala, and Paul Williams. Members agreed that a tamarack would be a good choice, if one were available. Josh McIntyre, our DNR speaker, noted that coniferous trees could be planted now, but that a deciduous tree has a better chance to establish its roots if planted in the spring. Mary Ann volunteered to contact Paul Hlina in Lakeside to see what he has available that would be suitable for planting this fall.

**Eskolin House:** The cupboards are arriving on October 15. Jim suggested we consider a Dutch door for the house. It would appear as a solid door from outside, but the top could have a window and screen providing the needed light and ventilation. Other advantages include the elimination of a draft and the possibility of some type of built-in shelf/counter. Members supported the idea of a Dutch door. Window shutters were suggested for the winter. John Lundeen, our carpenter, would need to be advised.

**Fund-raising:** This agenda item will be left to the Mill Committee.

**Archives committee:** The next meeting is on Monday, October 20, 2008 at Pellman's. They are working on Maple Cooperative materials and a Maple history photo collection and have started work on the extensive Elmer Hermanson papers.

**Website:** Thanks to Earl for his continuous work developing and maintaining this website. Thanks, also to Jon Winter who is helping with e-mail contact button on site.

**Pollari Memorial Gift Committee:** There has been good progress on the "Northern" Douglas County/Old Brule historical map. Randy Jones is assisting with the project. Lois (who has donated another \$500 to help the project along), Harry, Hope, Audrey, and Jim are members who serve on this committee.

**Publicity/Advertising:** New brochure will include a map and show better in stands. We will duplicate what we've done and take out any solicitation. New calendar production for 2009 is going forward. Mailings will be sent to businesses. Their advertisements have paid for printing in the past. Laila M. noted that the former Twin Gables is now in business as Dee's Twin Gables.

**Publications Committee:** Historical map in progress and 2009 calendars in progress as noted above.

**Membership Committee:** Members are asked to submit blue sheets to Jim for their work hours through July 2008.

**Brule History Research Group:** They are meeting when they can to work on a file full of information to be compiled into one book.

**FinnFests 2008-09:** We cleared \$300 during this event and volunteers enjoyed the experience. Next year's FinnFest will take place on a cruise to Alaska.

**Taylor's Bridge:** We have no information yet regarding cost. Repair of sign needs to get done.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Communication:** Membership renewals, paver donations and orders are coming in.

**Next Regular Meeting:** December 10. Lila R. will see if it can be held at the Lakeside Town Hall. A possible program could be the history of the area 4-H program. Pat Luostari may be able to help.

**Next Board Meeting:** November 12<sup>th</sup>, Eskolin house, 6:00 p.m., weather permitting.

**Next Windmill Committee Meeting** – October 15, 2008, Eskolin House, 6:00 p.m.

#### **Other New Business:**

Alice prepared a great chili for the workers on October 2. The Board also expressed thanks to Gary Luoma who made a tasty stew for the workers.

Check writing decisions will need to be made at the next Board meeting in preparation of Ron's absence. Earl didn't know if his status as a check-writer had been changed.

OBHS needs to have an audit of its books. Maryann moved and Shirley seconded the motion that we have our books audited by B & B. The motion carried.

Shirley noted that sweatshirts are available for half-price. It was suggested that we consider slashing the price even lower to sell off this merchandise.

Certificates of appreciation are being distributed to all of the following Board members who completed their term in August: Earl Granroth, Jack Pank, Karin Colby, Mary Wester, Irene Parenteau, Jackie Plunkett, and Marion Christensen.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Minerva made a motion, seconded by Velma, that we adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lila Ronn

#### **FUND-RAISING MERCHANDISE FOR SALE**

The Society has available regional history magnets, plus Davidson Windmill memorabilia: mugs, caps and tee shirts and sweat shirts for sale. Early issue magnets are going for \$1 each, or 6 for \$5.00, proceeds to our general fund. The Windmill mugs are \$4.00, old stock caps, \$5.00, and tee shirts, any size, \$10, all proceeds going into the Windmill Fund. Sweat shirts, any size are \$25.00, now on sale at ½ price, taxes included. **SEE OUR WEB SITE ([www.oldbrule.org](http://www.oldbrule.org)) FOR CURRENT SALE ITEMS AND PRICES.**

Available also are copies of a David Noah Seis photograph of the mill. This image comes in three sizes: 4 by 5 inches, 5 by 7 inches, and 8 ½ by 11 inches. The smaller reproductions can also be used as post cards as each has a brief historical description on half of its reverse side. Prices are \$1.00, \$2.00 and the largest one which has no printing on it \$3.00. All are laser reproductions on card stock suitable for framing. This same image is available in our magnet series. Our book, *Wisconsin Far Northwest*, and Nan Wisherd's books, *Pathways* and *Echoes*, and Lakeside's *Sisu and Sauna* are available for \$20.00 a copy + \$4.00 shipping. Wisconsin tax is included in all of our prices. Shipping and handling for mugs, caps and tee shirts is a \$4.00 minimum. All items are also available for purchase at our meetings or by contacting an O-BHS member. O-BHS Calendars for 2006 (\$5), 2007(\$6) and 2008 (\$7) are also available (\$3.50 shipping). See box on Page 2 above for more info.

**Unapproved BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.**

Eskolin House, Town of Lakeside  
November 12, 2008

**Members Present:** President Alice Christensen, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Shirley Kankas-Rouleau, Secretary Lila Ronn, Treasurer Ron Hendrickson, Paul Colby, Mary Ann Gronquist, Audrey Hakkila, Jim Pellman, and Nancy Wiitala.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Alice called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

**MINUTES:** Audrey made a motion, seconded by Shirley, that the minutes of September 10, 2008, with minor corrections, be approved. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Ron reported that OBHS currently has investments in Chippewa Valley Bank (1966.45 in checking; 2550.00 in savings; 5336.57 in a certificate of deposit) and National Bank of Commerce (1760.79 in new checking account and 2272.42 in savings) that total 13,886.23. Nancy made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mary Ann to approve the treasurer's report.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Davidson Windmill Committee Report:**

**Sidewalk:** Phase I and II of the sidewalk have been completed; Phase IV paperwork is done. When Phase III is done, OBHS will have completed all work and paperwork related to the ConocoPhillips grants. Total number of ordered pavers is 185.

**Biffy Storage Building :** While the building is essentially completed, it still needs a door knob with lock, bracing for the ceiling, shelves to hang from the rafters, and the 4' x 8' sheets already supplied by Eddie Walman to be fitted to create shelves. Jim thought that this work could be done soon; he also volunteered to install bracing and to get a lock-set for the building.

**Grounds:** The ball will be placed on the flagpole next spring at the time the flag pole is painted.

**Signage:** Earl is investigating.

**Eskolin House:** Alice, Ed, and Marilyn P. plan to move vintage cabinets from the Autio home to the Eskolin house this following weekend. Alice and Ed have planted some seeds and bulbs around the house; John is expected to build shutters for the two windows soon; and John L. is working on the door.

**Mill Merchandise:** Shirley reported that she has completed entering all sales for merchandise in the records and that, after a thorough inventory, we can make decisions for future orders to be ready for June, 2009. The Board supported ordering through Tina Prior. Merchandise sales from the Model T Club visit, the Apple Festival weekend, and following the October General meeting totaled around \$1,200.

**Windmill History Booklet:** While Jim is working on this project, his major focus at this time must be on the 2009 calendar.

**Next Mill Committee Meeting:** On hold.

**Fund-raising Committee:** After investigating the possibility of applying for a Duluth Area Community Foundation Grant, Paul recommended that we do not proceed at this time.

**Archives Committee:** Audrey reported that this committee would meet again on November 17. They are in the process of cataloging- photographs related to Maple history.

**Website Committee:** Jon Winter is working with Earl regarding the email button feature.

**Pollari Memorial Gift Committee:** Jim, Lois, Audrey, Harry, and Hope met recently with Randy Jones to work on the map. Completion is close.

**Publicity/Advertising Committee:** Mary Ann continues to distribute our flier. New, fliers, which will be more noticeable in stands and include a map and directions, will be ordered soon. Thanks to her and Audrey, who is responsible for our press releases.

**Publications Committee:** Refer to Publicity report above. OBHS still has some 2008 calendars left, as well as a few from 2006 and 2007. The production of the 2009 calendars is still in progress. At this time, we have 15 advertisers, which are fewer than in the past, but will cover most of the printing expenses. We may print only 250 calendars, rather

than 300. Those wanting *Far Northwest* maps to complete their collection should see Jim.

**Membership Committee:** Ron reported that he has received many membership dues since the August annual meeting. Audrey will be authorized to sign membership cards. Jim and Alice will handle the related financial transactions during Ron's vacation. Ron and Audrey will coordinate the membership data prior to Ron's leaving in January.

**Brule History Research Group:** No report.

**Taylor's Bridge:** This sign needs repair so that the sign won't sag when wet and that the text remains legible. OBHS is sharing the expenses with DCHS. At this time Kathy Laakso did not have the information to re-create the text. Jim and Alice will be investigating text and graphics and Superior Trophy costs.

**Next Board Meeting:** January 14, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at Eskolin House (alternate: Alice's house). Both Ron and Lila will be absent.

**Next Regular Meeting:** Christmas meeting: December 10, 6:00 p.m. at the Amnicon Town Hall. Pat Luostari will provide the program about 4-H in our area.

**Bateau:** Alice will write a letter to DCHS explaining that we are not able to accept the bateau.

**Model T Visit (September 27) and Bayfield Apple Festival (October 3-5):** Both were successful events. Sunday, October 5, brought visitors throughout the day.

**Clarification of Officer Job Descriptions/Board Member Notebooks:** Jim will create a folder on the computer that would clarify information all Board members should have. Officers should know their job descriptions. By-laws should be brought up to date, e.g. changed meeting times.

**Other Old Business:** The plaque has been put up on the mill.

Jim made a motion, seconded by Paul, that we close the checking account at the Chippewa Bank and transfer it to the National Bank of Commerce in Poplar. This motion was approved.

Paul Hlina donated a tamarack to OBHS that Alice and Eddie have already planted. This tree and others on the property have been prepared for the winter. A thank you to be sent???

The \$300 paid to Randy Jones for his work on our map was written from the checkbook. Ron will transfer \$300, which was previously earmarked for the map in a savings account, to our checking account.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

The Board decided to keep an inventory of ten books by Nan Wisherd, the remainder acquired at Finnfest to be returned. She was selling them at Finnfest to us for \$9.00; OBHS, in turn, sells them for \$20.00.

#### **Communications:**

A note from Fay Laakso thanking OBHS for their work was received; the Federal Employee's Group of Duluth has requested that Jim speak about the Davidson Mill at their meeting next spring; and a Wisconsin Humanities Council brochure has been received.

The Wisconsin Homemaker's Association has requested a tour of the windmill and Eskolin house next fall as part of their bus tour. Jim made a motion, seconded by Nancy, that we entertained that group. The motion was approved.

Letters have been received from the Wirtanen Pioneer Farm in Makinen, MN, thanking all who attended their Farm Fall Festival; and from the Midwest Art Conservation Center regarding their services.

**Sympathy and Encouragements:** No report.

**Christmas Party** – A potluck Christmas party will precede the December 10 meeting. Those who wish to participate in a gift exchange are to bring a \$5 – 10 gift, marked Male, Female, or Either.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Audrey made a motion, seconded by Jim that we adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lila Ronn, Secretary

Area History:  
No. 65

The following is a preview of the January image and text in our new 2009 OBHS History calendar.



**The Old Lakeside Baptist Church, Town of Lakeside. Completed in 1921. Picture taken about 1935.**

The beginnings of the Lakeside Baptist Congregation can be traced back to 1905 when Axel Dahlin began conducting Sunday school and held services in the Lakeside Cedar Grove School. This was just before the first division of the Town of (Old) Brule. All of these early meetings were conducted in the Swedish language. A significant number of those who attended were Swede-Finns. Andrew Bloomquist, a traveling Baptist missionary affiliated with the Finnish Baptist Mission headquartered in Chisholm, Minnesota, came to preach at the school and helped the ladies of the congregation organize a Ladies Aid by 1916. In 1918 the first attempt at erecting a church building blew over in a windstorm. The building was finally completed in 1921 at a cost of \$668.68. A council to formally organize the church was called that year. In 1929 the first business meeting was held with Albert Esselstrom elected Chairman; Axel Dahlin, Vice-chairman; August Wick, Secretary; A. J. Walberg, Vice-secretary; and Felix Esselstrom, Treasurer. Frederick Berglund was speaker at the first regular church service. The old church was used until the new one was completed, with new sanctuary dedicated on March 16, 1958. (*Earl Granroth collection.*)

## - NOTICES -

**THANK YOUS & RECOGNITIONS:** To those many who continue to donate toward Windmill paver memorials. Engraving progresses as time permits. To those who have paid their dues for 2009. Please check your membership cards for expiration date.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** To the **Duluth Playhouse** on its production of **It's a Wonderful Life**, with lead actors **Drew Autio** and **Jen Bergum**. **Marcus Trudeau** did an amazing job as Mr. Potter, an updated Mr. Scrooge. Performances continue through December 21<sup>st</sup>. To member **Charlene Pellman Harms** who celebrated a threshold birthday on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. To member **Paul Colby** on new employment.

**ENCOURAGEMENTS:** To **Arnold and Doris Perala** as Arnold undergoes surgery. To **Delores Pellman**, who continues to improve after surgery. (She thanks all of those who have remembered her with cards, gifts & flowers.)

**OUR SYMPATHY:** To wife **Nancy** and to family & friends of **Reuben Wiitala**. To the family and friends of OBHS member and Brule History Research Group member **Oscar Anderson** who recently passed away at 97. To **Bill Howland and wife** of Maple who just lost their home to fire. . . . *and who have we missed or forgotten?*

## CALENDAR

**December 10**, Wednesday, General Meeting. 6 p.m at the Amnicon Town Hall. Speaker: Educator Pat Luostari, on the History of the Local 4H. Pot Luck Supper. Christmas Gift Exchange (\$5-10 marked man or woman or both)

**December 15**, Monday, 1 p.m. Archive Meeting at Pellmans'.

**December 25**, Thursday, Christmas Day.

**January 1**, New Year's Day, Thursday.

**January 12**, Monday, 1 p.m. Next Archives Meeting at Pellmans'.

**January 14**, Wednesday, 6:00 p.m., Next OBHS Board Meeting. Eskolin House?

**January 15**, Thursday, Deadline for February *OBHS News* contributions. Articles are encouraged!

**February 11**, Wednesday, 6:00 p.m., Next OBHS General meeting.

**OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY WEB SITE ON LINE**

The Website Committee has been building up our Web site ([www.oldbrule.org](http://www.oldbrule.org)). Our thanks to Earl Granroth who continues to make regular updates, and to **Jon Winter** of **Winter Systems in Superior**, our Web host at no charge to us.

**Anyone interested in joining the Old-Brule Heritage Society is encouraged to attend any of our meetings and programs. To join they may also contact any member or the President at the return address below, or our Treasurer, Ron Hendrickson, at the same address. Our annual dues are \$15.00 for individuals, and \$25.00 for families, payable at the time of our annual meeting in August. Higher levels of support are always welcome.**

**New Members and Visitors are Always WELCOME!**

Old-Brule Heritage Society, Inc.  
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