

## Celebrating the 110th Year of the Building

2011 marked another milestone for the Keweenaw Heritage Center. The building was dedicated as St. Anne's Church in 1901. It kept that identity for 65 years, serving a primarily French-Canadian congregation until it was deconsecrated in 1966. Nearly half the life of the building has elapsed since then. For nearly three decades after, the building deteriorated. Its life as the Keweenaw Heritage Center began in 1994, bringing it to a new role in the community. For the past seventeen years, community members have worked to rescue the building and allow it to become a focal point in preserving the heritage of the Keweenaw.

Contributions from individuals, local businesses, and organizations amount to nearly 55% of \$1,050,000 raised to rescue the building. We have also applied for and received various grants from agencies like

The Americana Foundation	Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission
Keweenaw National Historical Park	Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs
Michigan Department of Commerce	Michigan Humanities Council
A. J. Strosacker Foundation	A. Alfred Taubman Foundation
Wisconsin Power & Light (UPPCO)	

For the past three summers, area musicians donated their services at performances that raised money to help make the building universally accessible. Volunteers successfully restored the 102 year-old organ.

During the past five years, rentals of the building met some utility expenses. Revenues from summer open hours also help pay for electricity, water and heat. The Board hopes increased usage and revenues will let the building generate income to pay for expenses, reducing reliance on donations for upkeep.

A 12-member Board, comprised entirely of volunteers, oversees administration and activities. No Board member receives compensation for serving on the Board. Each donates time and skills in carpentry, custodial duties, exhibit design, fund-raising, grant application writing, publicity, volunteer scheduling and training, and website design along with other activities. Annually, individual Board members average contributions of over 100 hours of volunteer work. Several give two or three times that amount.



In recognition of all the volunteers who have done so much for the Heritage Center, the Upper Peninsula Volunteer Network awarded its 2011 U.P. Service Award to the Keweenaw Heritage Center in October.

What a wonderful tribute to all of you in a community that cares for its heritage!

## 2011—A Year of Many Steps

Remember the saying, “Two steps forward and one step back”? In the history of the Keweenaw Heritage Center, progress has sometimes followed that pattern. While we have made many steps forward, there have also been those backward steps. 2011 was no exception.

## **Overseeing the Steps—Our Volunteer Board Members**

Officers:

Phyllis Locatelli, Chair; Jean Ellis, Vice-Chair; Anita Campbell, Secretary; Gracia Bracco, Treasurer

Trustees:

Tim Bausano, Paul Bracco, Fred Geis, Daniel Glinn, Donna Holmstrom, Bob Langseth, George Siira, Helen Sullivan

### **From the Chairperson:**

Greetings,

As another year comes to an end, we tend to reflect on the many events held during that time. Looking back, it was a year of wonderful happenings at the Keweenaw Heritage Center.

A sincere thank you to the many dedicated volunteer hosts who welcomed visitors to the Center during late June through Labor Day. You are appreciated. Thanks also to the organists who provided wonderful organ music during our open afternoons. Many a guest was lured into the building by the music that could be heard from the sidewalk. There is always a need for more docents so call me at 337-1640 if you are interested.

Musical Mondays were again very well received. There was a variety of toe tapping, hand-clapping music that everyone in attendance enjoyed. If you missed the Musical Mondays or the concerts this summer, be sure to mark your calendar for 2012. A sincere thank you to all the musicians who donated their time and talent with all proceeds helping to fund our Universal Accessibility Project.

It has been gratifying to see the Keweenaw Heritage Center rented for so many different functions including weddings, meetings, dinner dances, and memorial services. Keep us in mind when you have the need to celebrate. It is a perfect venue!

Looking back again, this time to 1994 when this now beautiful building was in shambles. What would be on the corner of 5th Street and Scott Street today, if Rev. Bob Langseth had not spearheaded the drive to secure funds to purchase the building? The money was raised and eventually a committee was formed to begin the rescue. Gracia Bracco and Jean Ellis have also been involved with the KHC for the past 17 years. How many people do you know that have given of their time and individual expertise for that many years to an organization? This trio has been instrumental in assisting the former St. Anne's Church in its return to the majesty of 1901. It is with respect and admiration that I thank Bob, Gracia, and Jean for their many years of dedication and hard work.

Best Regards,  
Phyllis

### **Supporting Our Steps All the Way**

Calumet Township Officials:

Paul Lehto, Debbie Aubin, Beth Salmela

We were saddened to learn of the death of Randy Jackman. He and his colleague Kevin Martilla have been wonderful with their help in many things.

# **Making All The Steps Possible**

We gratefully acknowledge:

## **Grants from:**

The Americana Foundation (2010)

Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission

Keweenaw National Historical Park

## **Gifts from these Donors (from November 2010 to October 2011)**

David and Jackie Alto	Carl and Marlene Adams	Charles and Angela Anderson
Walter and Mary Ann Anderson	Chuck and Jan Anderson	Lee and Kathy Arten
Nancy Barton	Sigmund Boberg	Hugh and Marion Boyle
Gracia Bracco	Mary Bratetich	Paul and Anita Campbell
Paul and Pat Cayer	John and Deanna Chamberlain	Tony and Chris Clements
Ray and Carol Contratto	Art and Toni Coppo	Peter Cornlis
Doug and Sandy Cox	James Cox	Douglass and Anna Craw
Ron and Janice Crouch	Janet Anuta Dalquist	Mike and Janet Dudenas
Keith and Marilynn Ehrenreich	Roland and Barbara Elenich	David Ellis
Jean Ellis	David Elсила	William and Heather Fontes
Darleen Ford	Debbie Frontiera	Fred and Kathryn Gaabo
David Geisler	David and Barbara Gilbert	Dan and Lynn Glinn
Randal and Patricia Golus	David and Linda Grahek	Susan Gregorich
John and Gretchen Healy	Gerald and Nancy Heikkila	Ray and Mary Henderson
George Hite	Alison K. Hoagland	Rick and Donna Holmstrom
Howard and Marilyn Hosking	Jim and Glenna Irwin	Virginia Jamison
Chris and Kathleen Jones	Jeff and Kelly Kalcich	Eleanor Kehoe
Fred and Margaret Kekko	Paul and Ann Kempainen	KNHP Advisory Commission
George and Linda Kingstrom	Joseph Kirkish	Judith Knight
Chester and Nancy Kwiesielewicz	Andrea Lane	Robert and Deloris Langseth
Anthony and Phyllis Locatelli	Janet Locatelli	Ann Lockwood
Robert Marr	David and Jacqueline Mentel	Rodney and Pat Mishica
Donald and Cynde Mitchell	Terence Murphy	Paula Muvrin
Robert and Margery Nelson	Edith M. Niederer	Keith and Claire Ojala
Ken and Carol Pelto	Arthur and Debra Rathke	Patrick and Anna Roche
Anita Roux	Bruce and Karen Rovano	John and Margueret Ryan
Ruth Sablich	Carmen Sandretto	Art and Julia Simila
David and Elizabeth Simonson	Leonard and Karen Simonson	David and Marsha Smith
Don and Jean Stauffer	Christine Tews	Alyce Thorpe
Valeda Tomasi	Carolyn Tormala	Ron and Anna Trudell
Maggie Uprichard	Gerald and Claudette Vairo	Mary Margaret Wagner
Paul and Judy Winquist	Mary Wolter	Harold and Valerie Zimdar

## **Summer Volunteer Guides**

Gracia Bracco, Paul Bracco, Anita Campbell, Fran Carne, Marijane Carne, Janice Crouch, Jean Ellis, Dave Grahek, Nancy Heikkila, Ann Kempainen, Bob Langseth, Pat LaRochelle, Phyllis Locatelli, Clare Matz, Char Pearce, Helen Sullivan, Carol Usitalo

## **Organists who provided music in the afternoons**

Kathleen Arten, David Bezotte, Jan Dalquist, Tom Kraska, Shirley Kytta, Jan List, and Adrienne Shipley

# Our Steps Forward—In the Building

## Light to Guide Your Steps

Improvements to the building continued. Outdoor lighting is the most visible, especially as daylight shortens in the fall. Thanks to part of a grant from the Americana Foundation, dusk to dawn lights now allow people to see when they exit the basement.

## Step to the Music

One improvement isn't visible. It's audible. A new sound system overcomes the echo in the basement. Funds for this came from the same Americana grant. Tony Locatelli designed the system. Tony currently lives in Chicago but worked on the design during his visits home. His previous experience with sound systems included work at St. Paul the Apostle and the basketball gym at Michigan Tech during his undergraduate days. Following the example of other members of his family, he donated his expertise to the Heritage Center. KHC is grateful for his work.

## The Challenge of Steps

For people with mobility problems, getting into the Heritage Center has been difficult or impossible. Anyone who climbs the front steps knows they are steep! Getting into the basement is also a challenge.

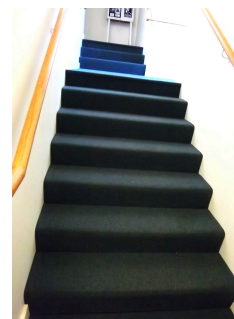
Back side stairway



Wanting to make the building accessible to all, the Board has investigated a lot of different options. Because the building covers almost all the property, an external elevator is not an option. Breaking into the sandstone walls could cause difficulties in the future.

The ideal solution would be to use an existing entrance into the building. But where?

Front side stairway



## Steps and Ramps

The back of the building had possibilities. An existing opening is close to the street, a consideration for parking.



Exterior view-entrance on Temple Street

Here it is on Temple Street, next to the intersection with Red Jacket Road. The opening could be modified—one step forward!

This time, though, there were two steps back. The back room was in the same condition as in 1994 when the rescue of the building began. An elevator would open back of the stage, requiring a ramp to compensate for the three steps down from the stage.

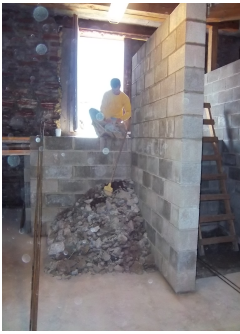


Interior coming from Temple Street

## **The Steps of Investigation, Preparation and Completion**

The Board looked for advice from different places over a period of four years. Keweenaw National Historical Park Architectural Historian John Rosemurgy, Bach Mobility, Township Supervisor Paul Lehto were some sources. We considered effects on the 110 year-old building as well as cost. In the end, we concluded that the entrance should be from Temple Street. Because using that location would necessitate a ramp upstairs if there were only an elevator, our decision was to go with two lifts. The final plan calls for a small lift that will go down to the basement. A second, farther toward Scott Street, will go from the basement interior up onto the main floor.

Meanwhile, there had been some other progress. Last year, we reported that the uneven floor in the back room had been replaced with a smooth concrete one, funded through the grant from the Americana Foundation. Some of the things stored in the back room had been cleaned out, courtesy of Board members and Township staff. This summer, preparation began for the lift.



Wall around lift space



Stairs go alongside the lift.



And, in October, completion.

Lots of steps forward! Goal almost accomplished! We had hoped everything would be ready for events around the opening of the KNHP Calumet Visitor Center.

However, we were advised that, without a dedicated phone line and with the condition of the ceiling, there was a good chance of failing the required inspection. Since an additional inspection would cost \$1,300, our decision was to wait until spring when all the i's could be dotted and all the t's crossed before having the lift in operation.

### **Future Steps—We'll Need Your Help.**

We'll be applying for grants to get the second phase of the accessibility project going. Most of these require matching funds. We hope you will help raise the approximately \$20,000 that will be needed as half the total cost.

Meanwhile, to adapt for other uses, the ceiling in the back room still needs repair. We'll need a wall to separate the furnace from the rest of the room. Storage facilities are at a premium and this area would benefit from shelves and cabinets.

Please help us in other ways as well. We hope to have an exciting summer program of concerts in 2012 and welcome any suggestions and/or volunteers. Plans are underway for an exhibit on sandstone buildings for summer 2012. In 2013, we'll focus on the roles of women in Calumet Township around 1910 to 1914. Guides, ideas, and extra hands are gifts you can make. Come join us and be a part of heritage preservation!



## Our Steps Backward—in the Building



Remember the part about one step backward? Sometimes that comes in the form of momentous events.

Momentous events? That's how we would describe being hit by lightning and struck by a mini-tornado. What a summer! It started on May 11 when lightning hit the steeple in two places. Fortunately, damage was confined to shingles being knocked off. The Board breathed a sigh of relief to learn there was no fire. There was another sigh when we learned insurance would pay for all but \$500 of the needed repairs.

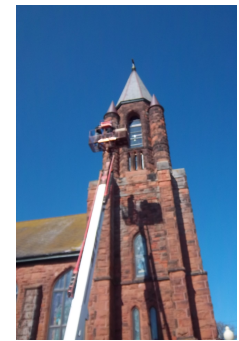
But Mother Nature wasn't through. No more fireworks, even though it was the beginning of the Fourth of July weekend. No, this was a big blowout.

Wind whipped Calumet, knocking down trees on Calumet Avenue and tearing the roofs off two buildings near the schools. With its last breath, it hit the Heritage Center, tearing tiles off the roof.



Apparently jealous of the strength of the lightning, the wind didn't let the steeple alone either. On the south side, not far from the roof damage, it tore shingles off the steeple.

Enough already! This is no way to treat a 110 year old structure! Back came the bucket lift. These guys were becoming an all-too familiar sight!



And what a way to start a wonderful summer!

## Stepping into Summer

It really was a wonderful summer. This year's Open House featured a presentation on The Men behind Buildings in Calumet by Mike Forgrave. The Noteworthy Chorus provided music for everyone's enjoyment. Some of the highlights: Once again, there was fantastic support from musicians in the effort to raise funds for universal accessibility. Volunteer guides did great work in keeping the Center open for visitors; we have an updated website; the Board has been working hard to keep the Master Plan current; and KHC received an award from the Upper Peninsula Volunteer Network.

### **2011 Musical Mondays at the Keweenaw Heritage Center**

Singing Sheriff Ron Lahti and Friends  
Copper Country Community Band  
Ethnic Music Night

Community Hymn Sing  
Heritage Days-Keweenaw Bay Indian Community

### **Other Musical Events that Benefited Universal Accessibility**

Organ concerts on two First Fridays in Calumet, July 1 and August 5  
Harpist Sidney Butler, July 26  
Pipe Organ Concert with Thomas Kraska and Adrienne Shipley, August 23

# Steps to Strengthen the Organization

## **Board Members**

The Board welcomed three new members this year. Dan Glinn and Helen Sullivan joined us after the Annual Meeting. Fred Geis became a member during the winter.

Fred took on a major project—updating the website and keeping the information current. Check out the results of his efforts at <http://www.pasty.com/heritage/> How wonderful for everyone to be able to know what is going on! You can also become our “friend” on Facebook.

## **Organizational Review**

When the rescue of the building began in 1994, almost all energy had to be focused on the building. Keweenaw Heritage Center was extremely fortunate in having people on the Board who could serve as liaisons with Calumet Township officials and with the Keweenaw National Historical Park. Gracia Bracco had served as a Township official; Bob Langseth had been very involved with KNHP.

In the early years, one crisis in the building followed another. And another. And another. Again, KHC was fortunate in its leaders. Those folks often had to resort to their own ingenuity to deal with emergencies rather than be able to turn to established policies. As the organization matured, bylaws, mission statements, and a Master Plan, including a Business Plan were all developed.

This year, the Board recognized the need for a comprehensive review. The purposes of this review are to:

- update the progress of the organization;
- identify strengths and weaknesses as well as successes and problems;
- propose solutions to problems; and
- celebrate successes.

Among the things we expect to come from this are:

1. Better, more consistent communication among Board members and with the general public
2. Recognition of major donors
3. Established procedures for working with Calumet Township and the Keweenaw National Historical Park.

The Board devoted most of its September meeting to working on the review. A more lengthy time is planned for January. This is a major effort—one that is very important.

## Legacy Award



From left: David Golus, Phyllis Locatelli, Janet Locatelli, Tony Locatelli, Tricia Golus

Keweenaw Heritage Center recognizes the contributions of individuals in its annual Legacy Award. The 2011 Award is unique in going to a family dedicated to preservation and to community service. Keweenaw Heritage Center has been the recipient of the time and talents of four generations of the Locatelli family. We are grateful for the contributions of Mrs. Ann Locatelli, her daughter, Janet, son Tony, grandchildren, Tricia Locatelli Golus and Tony Locatelli, and great-grandchildren, Anne and David Golus. The Heritage Award is especially appropriate for Phyllis Bracco Locatelli, our chairperson whose devotion to the Center is evident in the countless hours she has spent, promoting all its goals and activities. “Thank you” seems inadequate.