

## **OJIBWAY HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY 2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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### **OJIBWAY HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY**

#### **ANOTHER BUSY YEAR**

The year 2018 was busy for the Ojibway Historical Preservation Society. There were some projects by which we continued to educate visitors about the Ojibway's rich history. There were projects to assist in the protection and risk reduction of the old hotel. There were some changes in the Board. And there was follow up on the potential for the further restoration and preservation of facilities, as set as priorities in 2017.

#### **HISTORICAL EDUCATION**

Initiative was taken by Nancy Lang and Helen Bryce, along with Terry Clark and Bill Watts, to designate a bedroom on the second floor as a "Heritage Bedroom". The effort included cleaning out a room and putting together old components of bedrooms in the past. These included the original in-bedroom sink, closet, fire escape rope and over-the-door valance, as well as period furniture. Then posters with pictures and annotated descriptions from the decades of Ojibway past were added to the authentic décor of the room. This was completed in time for 2018 summer visitors; many who visited and enjoyed the museum-like experience encouraged others to do the same.

The same group collaborated to arrange for the OHPS to have a touch screen computer console in the lobby of the hotel. It contains the excellent website of the OHPS, which includes extensive documentation of the history of the Ojibway. The website and the console work to fulfill a responsibility of OHPS to educate and provide access to the public on the historically and architecturally significant structures and elements of the Ojibway Island area and facilities. Many visitors to the Ojibway in 2018 enjoyed the console experience and were able to sign the digital visitor's log. Make sure you check out the console if you have not already.

## **FIRE RISK REDUCTION**

One of the priorities set in 2017 was the consideration for completing the hotel sprinkler system under the hotel crawl space. A fire protection specialist was engaged to assess the need under the fire code. The report came back stating that with certain stipulations, the sprinklers were not required. The stipulations were that the skirting around the base of the building be completed, and that no flammable materials be stored under the crawl space. A huge effort was made by Bill Watts and Steve Ramsay, the Ojibway Director of Facilities, to get the skirting completed and to clean out many stored materials from under the hotel. Many materials were stored on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor which also constituted a fire hazard, and another effort was launched to clear the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. It is now cleaner and safer.

## **BOARD CHANGES**

The year saw the retirement from the OHPS Board of Helen and Doug Bryce. Helen served as Secretary and Communications Director. Doug served as the Treasurer. Both Helen and Doug were tireless workers for the legacy of the Ojibway. They will be missed but certainly deserve to step back.

We are very fortunate to welcome Celia Milne for Communications and Secretary, Sam Skuce for Facilities, and Bob Kilgour as Treasurer to the Board. All three bring their family histories and Ojibway attachment to the Board. Celia brings her extensive experience in communications and writing. Sam brings his experience as a Professional Engineer working with Heritage Facilities throughout Ontario. Bob Kilgour brings his business and accounting experience to the position of Treasurer.

In addition, Bill Watts was elected to the position of President and Terry Clark agreed to stay on as Past President. Terry has played a major role in OHPS for many years, and we appreciate his willingness to continue to provide his experience and support.

## THE GIFT SHOP PROJECT

In 2017, the OHPS Board created a list of parts of Ojibway that were expected to become in need of restoration in the future. The main fixed dock, the Gift Shop, certain Walking Trails, sprinklers under the Hotel, and rental cabins made the list and were discussed and debated by both the OHPS and Ojibway Boards. The Gift Shop rose to the top of the priority list as both Boards agreed that there was sufficient deterioration in the building's structure to warrant taking the necessary steps to restore it ahead of other projects.



In 2018 the OHPS Board embarked on a plan for the restoration of the Gift Shop. An architect was engaged, cost estimates were provided, and a fundraising campaign was initiated in July. There has been enormous support from the Ojibway community. The plans presented at the launch of fundraising in July generated enthusiasm and excitement that the restoration may be possible.

As of this writing at year end we are very pleased to announce that the fundraising goal for the Gift Shop has been met. The fundraising was directed by Jenni McIsaac and congratulations go to Jenni for this very successful campaign. And thanks go to all those who generously donated and share the vision to help preserve and protect the history of the Ojibway by supporting the restoration of the Gift Shop.

The OHPS Board will now take steps to contract further for the detail drawings and move the project to competitive bidding by spring. The plan is for building demolition to take place in September followed by building restoration and completion for re-opening in June 2020.

### **OTHER RESTORATION PROJECTS**

Other restoration projects are being considered for the future at the Ojibway: a small extension of the Walking Trails to connect the existing trail to the Swim Pavilion and a historic log built gazebo. And there is even an exploration to rebuild Pinewood, the torn down summer residence for Hamilton Davis, the Entrepreneur who built and ran the Ojibway Hotel for 5 decades. Stay tuned on these possibilities.

### **ONGOING SUPPORT**

The Ojibway is the beating heart of the Pointe au Baril community due to its 112+ year history and the affection it carries for many families who are fortunate to enjoy the benefits it adds to the summer experience in Pointe au Baril.

The OHPS has a role that is critical to the health of the Ojibway Island's historic structures by monitoring their stability. Keeping the buildings historic requires critical funding which is only possible through the donations made by the generous supportive community. Thank you to everyone who made donations this past year...perhaps you were able to donate to the Gift Shop project. If so, thank you. Or perchance you were able to donate as a "Friend" of the Ojibway. Again, we thank you. We appreciate all the support, for it is only through the establishment of OHPS, initiated in 2001, that the property was kept from deteriorating to collapse. OHPS now helps ensure it will be there for future generations.

Information about the OHPS and the history of the Ojibway is available to you anytime at [www.ohps.ca](http://www.ohps.ca). And you can enjoy the website at the Ojibway on the new lobby console. You are also invited to attend the Annual Community Meeting of the OHPS on Saturday July 13 at the Ojibway immediately following the Board Meeting of the Ojibway Club. Please come and meet the Board members and participate in the discussions shaping the work of the OHPS.

ANNUAL COMMUNITY MEETING  
OF THE  
**OJIBWAY HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY**  
SATURDAY JULY 13, 2019  
9:30 AM  
OJIBWAY MOVIE HUT

Bill Watts  
President & Board Chair  
The Ojibway Historical Preservation Society