

# Mille Lacs Lake Historical Society News

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[www.millelachistorymuseum.org](http://www.millelachistorymuseum.org)

Spring - 2023

Mille Lacs, U.S.A.

Isle, Minnesota

## President's Notes:

Welcome to 2023! The Mille Lacs Lake Historical Society is celebrating 40 years in 2023!! And the main building is turning 120 years old!



We continue to have a lot of success with our three Facebook pages, we are around 3000 'Likes' between the three with a lot of interest! Check it out at: <https://www.facebook.com/IsleMinnesotaCentennial/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/millelacsakelakehistoricalsociety/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/millelacsakelakehistoryfestivalandrendezvous/>

There are lots of great photos and info posted there from our members and contributors, covering Isle, Onamia, Wahkon, Opstead, & surrounds.

## We also now have a website!

[millelachistorymuseum.org](http://millelachistorymuseum.org) that was put together by board member **Tammy Johnston** who will maintain it and make changes as needed.

Alterations will go through the board of directors.

Contact [millelacsakemuseum@gmail.com](mailto:millelacsakemuseum@gmail.com)

A video surveillance system was installed in 2016, and we will continue to keep improving security, although a system upgrade may be needed and is under investigation.

For 2023 we look forward to still more improvements, such as gutters completed on all the buildings! Vendor staffing has delayed this.

In autumn 2022, our neighbor had a truck fire that damaged the siding on the west side of the office addition. Insurance is coordinating repairs. Failure of the concrete footing was discovered on the 1895 Pioneer School, which is getting attention. More siding work is still needed on the 128 year old Pioneer School.

Share the memories! Spread the word! Please help support the museum and preserve our past.

Preserving the stories from the past requires time and effort, so please consider becoming a member-volunteer and help to preserve our history! There is a bit of adventure and fascinating facts to be found.

Thanks for being a member & please consider volunteering as well.

Gerald Wollum - President

**Mille Lacs Lake Historical Society**

**Our main display in 2021 & '22** about Vintage Outboard Motors will continue with new additions once the museum is open again! If you have any pictures or info about classic outboards you would like to share please email it to [millelacs.vous@gmail.com](mailto:millelacs.vous@gmail.com) or let us know and we can arrange to get it scanned. Other displays will also gain additions. **New in 2023 at the bulletin board near the door will be a display about Garrison.** Also a display of venerable old general store buildings from around the Mille Lacs area. Plus an added feature at the Soo Line Railroad display upstairs.

We were so pleased that the 2022 **Olde Tyme Fall Fest** was a success! The displays, artists, authors, and demonstrations are a big hit.



We have very interesting culture in this part of Minnesota, and more suggestions are welcome. And thanks to **Tusenvann Sons of Norway** for their past & future Brat Stand sales. We appreciate their participation.

**Many thanks to Bob Snyder for his work** and for coordinating many miscellaneous tasks around the museum.

**Thanks to board member Gaynelle Templin for her continuing work on the new museum inventory** and for



coordinating the outboard motor displays. Also for her work on getting more repairs coordinated.

**For several years, Joe Fellegly has researched and produced storyboards of History Tidbits and Nuggets** retrospective of 100 years earlier, used at our County Fair display and in the Museum in Isle. And again for 2023.

**Thanks to Gaynelle Templin for stepping into the treasurer position!**

**An additional board member is needed.**

In 2022, we again participated in the **Mille Lacs History Alliance** drive for increased funding from Mille Lacs County, though this year is a concern. We are able to receive contributions through the Thrivent Financial Choice Dollars check-off, and we'll participate in Give-to-the-Max again in 2023.

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**A big thank you to all the past Rendezvous Participants** since 1993. They are a very dedicated group. The museum board has decided to step away further from production but will provide help as is possible.

**We need volunteers!** We must have at least **3 people** each time once we are open so we can have at least one person in each of our three buildings. We cannot leave them open unattended. Be sure to visit us often with ideas! **We also welcome more Board Members!** We usually meet the first Monday of each month at 9:00 AM at the Mille Lacs Lake Museum in Isle, 10:00AM in winter. More members are also needed to make our organization more resilient.

## --- MLLHS Board of Directors

The **Mille Lacs Lake Museum** is planned to be open Saturdays 10 - 2 hopefully starting Memorial Day Saturday through Labor Day Weekend, subject to availability of volunteers to staff the buildings.

**The 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Mille Lacs History Festival & Rendezvous | June 24 – 25;** The fifth year at the back lot of the **DeCorsa Vineyard & Farm Winery**, courtesy of Mike & Betty DeCoursey. Group planning, fundraising, advertising, and the seeking of prizes is already underway. The Historical Society has stepped away from managing this event.

We will participate in **Isle Days July 7-9!**

We once again will be part of the **Mille Lacs County Fair on August 9 – 13, 2023.**

**The Olde Tyme Fall Fest** is set for **Saturday, September 30 from 9 to 3.**

**Funding:** We were fortunate to again receive partial funding from Mille Lacs County in 2022, as well as the very much appreciated gifts and memorials from our other loyal supporters.

**Membership:** More new members are needed, as well as the expertise they bring! People can join or renew at [millelachistorymuseum.org](http://millelachistorymuseum.org)

Several members passed on in 2022. We strongly respect the privacy of their families, and very much appreciate the memorial gifts received on their behalf.

We are pressing to finalize membership in the MN Alliance of Local History Museums

There is a method to pay for a membership online on the new website, and we can post on Facebook or email a document that may be printed and filled out and mailed in. And we still maintain a list to mail out renewals via US Mail.

## Current Officers on the board are:

Gerald Wollum – president

Gaynelle Templin – treasurer & vice president

Hans Woelfle – secretary

Tammy Johnston – webmaster

Bob Snyder – construction

Joe Fellegly – area historian

**We will be announcing a general meeting in the spring to elect officers,** as this was on hold during the Covid times.

Previously, we planned to make posters with advance event info to put up around the area to get the word out, and we are still pursuing this.

One exciting concept we are exploring but still haven't put together yet is to have a **“Talking History”** round table discussion, perhaps in the log cabin where a group can talk about local history and ask questions. We would want to record the audio or at least take notes. Who knows what subjects might come up!

**\*\*Please remember that the landline phone at the museum was discontinued.** Email or Facebook Messenger is best for expedited contact. The message will be forwarded to a board member for action. An additional email is also being added and is posted on the new website and the heading of this newsletter.

**Please know that as a member of the Mille Lacs Lake Historical society you are taking responsibility for helping to preserve the history of the Mille Lacs Area. The rest of the membership and the community at large thanks you very much!**

*As always, we need and value your ideas, comments, and suggestions.*