



Museum Matters

the newsletter of the

Elk Rapids Area Historical Society

Exploring the past... Understanding the present... Envisioning the future

Spring 2024

“BELL TOWER REPAIR” APPEAL \$15,000 CHALLENGE



Repair Started

Since the beginning of our February “Bell Tower Repair” appeal to replace the \$35,000 taken from savings last summer for the bell tower/steeple leaks, we have received generous donations amounting to 50% of the \$15,000 challenge donation.



Peak Repaired

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE DONATED

We continue to need your help to meet this challenge and prepare for the new emergency that has arisen. See below. Please use the donation form on page 7 to make your contribution to this important project.



Steeple Ledge Before Repair



Repair Finished

STAIR LIFT MISFORTUNE

Handicap Accessibility



As a public building, the ERAHS History Museum MUST by State and Federal regulation provide for handicap accessibility. Every two years, the State of Michigan inspects our stair lift to assure it is operational and that twice-annual maintenance checks have been performed. Otis Elevator does the twice-a-year maintenance checks which have risen to \$345 this year. The State of Michigan charges \$185 for its inspection every two years. The stair lift now needs a new charger and battery at a cost of \$4,270. Our costs this year for maintaining the stair lift will be \$4,800. Anticipating a potential emergency such as this is what prompts us to do our February Special Project Appeals.

**HELP US RESOLVE THIS NEW DILEMMA
by donating to our “Bell Tower Repair” Appeal**

Elk Rapids Area Historical Society
Mailing address: P. O. Box 2
Elk Rapids MI 49629-0002
www.elkrapidshistory.org
Email: research@elkrapidshistory.org

ERAHS Board of Trustees:

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History Museum
301 Traverse St. (corner of Pine)
Open by appointment
Admission donation welcome
Guided tours available
Call: (231) 264-5692

President's Corner:



Dan LeBlond

It is with fond memories that I take this opportunity to acknowledge the passing of Dale Dillon on December 17, 2023.

Dale was a Board member in 2010 when the momentous decision was made to move the History Museum from the basement of the Historic Township Hall to our current location.

There were many Board meetings lasting three hours or more discussing that decision. Dale was an important and active contributor.

Dale's role in the Historical Society multiplied after that decision. There were many renovations and repairs that were needed after acquiring the building in 2011. One of the most important was laying new drainage tiles around the perimeter of the building. Dale was deep in the trenches helping to accomplish that task.

Another project that is visible today, is the trim around the back door after the rubber stair covering was installed. The hand-made and designed bannister on each side of the steps is a tribute to his craftsmanship. Next, he tackled the trim and sills around the windows in the downstairs kitchen and restrooms. If you look closely, you'll notice that all the windows have white trim except one. That is because the pine used for that window was "harvested" from the vestibule floor in the upper lobby of the building. The wood is at least as old as the building itself, 123 years. The trim on the side of that one window remains unpainted as a memorial to its origin.

Mission Statement

The Elk Rapids Area Historical Society and Museum is a center that inspires people to explore the past, understand the present and envision the future.

We accomplish this by:

- Serving as the authority on regional history
- Preserving artifacts pertinent to the region
- Promoting, collaborating and supporting community activities
- Providing a center for community engagement and education
- Assisting with research and learning
- Ensuring history is an integral component of community development
- Sharing our past as the foundation for the future



Dale Dillon
Mar 13, 1931 – Dec 17, 2023



Putting in drainage tiles



Replacing backdoor trim



Repairing window trim

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, April 25th, 7-8 pm – As part of the Museum’s focus on Past and Present Homes of Elk Rapids, Ray Kendra, principal architect of Environmental Architects will provide an overview of sustainable strategies for residential architecture.

Thursday, July 25th, 7-8 pm – Guido Goldkuhle, owner of Kuhl Studies in Traverse City will be speaking about stained glass window restoration.

FUTURE EVENTS

ON UPDATED WEBSITE

Other events, as well as a monthly listing of all the History Hounds online presentations, will appear on our newly updated website:

elkrapidshistory.org

Just click the “EVENTS” tab at the top of the homepage.

WEBSITE NEWS

Our Technology Committee met weekly in January and February to update our website. The previous website had antiquated software that no web host would accept without major changes and it was becoming difficult to maintain. It is a work in progress.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Annual memberships expire on June 30th of each year. Membership renewals will be mailed in late May. By that time, we hope that you will be able to renew your membership online using our website:

elkrapidshistory.org

Membership dues are the third leg of our financial sustainability along with donations and grants. Show your support by being a member of the Elk Rapids Area Historical Society.

FALL 2023 ACTIVITIES

Story Destination



The Elk Rapids District Library and ERAHS joined forces and held a story destination event at the History Museum on September 22nd. Approximately 25 adults and 17 preschool children attended a story hour in the late morning. Afterwards, various activities and displays were available for the parents and children to enjoy and learn about the Museum.



Green ER Meeting on November 29th



MORE 2023 ACTIVITIES

Christmas Through the Decades

Along with the production of “White Christmas” at the HERTH in November, the History Museum featured a display of vintage Christmas ornaments, trees, and related memorabilia. A total of 193 visitors viewed the display during the 7 days of exhibition.



James Dake
Using Museum to record music in January

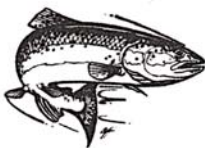


Melanie Gibson doing research
In January

***** Museum Partners *****

Alden State Bank and the Village Market have annually made generous donations to our operating budget. We are grateful for their support!

LOBBY HOURS: M. - Th. 9:00 to 4:00 / Fri. 9:00 to 5:00 / Sat. Closed
DRIVE THRU: M. - Th. 8:30 to 5:00 / Fri. 8:30 to 6:00 / Sat. 9:00 to 12:00



Alden State Bank
www.aldenbank.com

MAIN OFFICE: P.O. BOX 39 • ALDEN, MI 49612 • (231) 331-4481
P.O. BOX 717 • ELK RAPIDS, MI 49629 • (231) 264-6900
P.O. BOX 1169 • BELLAIRE, MI 49615 • (231) 533-9400
P.O. BOX 515 • CENTRAL LAKE, MI 49622 • (231) 544-8237

VILLAGE MARKET
FOOD CENTERS

P.O. Box 455 250 Ames Street Elk Rapids, MI 49629 (231) 264-5629	P.O. Box 280 9556 Rapid City Road Rapid City, MI 49676 (231) 331-6111
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***** Business Sponsors *****

We thank the following businesses who are supporting our 2024 programs!

- | | | |
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| Fitzpatrick
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Agency | The Place
Re/Max of
Elk Rapids | Short's
Brewing
Company |
| Guntzviller's | | |

HISTORY HOUNDS
ONLINE PROGRAMS

Visit our website: elkrapidshistory.org
Click "Events" tab
for monthly listing
of all upcoming programs and events



THE HISTORY OF Mason Jars

Do you ever wonder who first thought of Mason Jars?

John Landis Mason patented the iconic Mason jar on November 30, 1858, introducing the first hermetically re-sealable glass jar for food preservation. Despite Mason's innovation transforming home canning, he saw little profit as patents expired in 1879, allowing various manufacturers to replicate his design. The Ball Corporation, starting in 1884, became a prominent Mason jar producer. Today, these jars remain versatile, used for canning, pickling, drinking glasses, eco-friendly lunch containers, and general food storage. Mason's enduring legacy lives on in these universal, airtight containers

Courtesy of: newsletter@newsletter.backthenhistory.com



Yes! I want to support The Elk Rapids Historical Museum!

Gift amount: ___\$50 ___\$100 ___\$200 ___\$500 ___\$1000 ___ Other

___ I would like to donate to the 2024 Feb "Bell Tower Repair" Appeal

___ I would like to support the Elk Rapids History Museum in any way that is needed.

Please print clearly

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail: _____

I would like to give my gift ___ in honor of ___ in memory of:

Name _____

___ Yes ___ No I would like a letter sent to decedent's family acknowledging gift. Please include name/address of family.

**Make checks payable to
ERAHS**

and mail to:

**ERAHS, P.O. Box 2
Elk Rapids MI 49629-0002**

**Credit Card Payments
Now Accepted!**

_____ **Card Number**

Expiration Date: _____

Three digit code: _____

ZIP code: _____

_____ **Signature**

Thank you for your support!



Elk Rapids Area Historical Society

Post Office Box 2, Elk Rapids, Michigan 49629-0002

Contact: Dan LeBlond, President (231) 264-5692 Email: president@elkrapidshistory.org, Web site: www.elkrapidshistory.org

Deliver to:

KEEP SAVING YOUR VILLAGE MARKET COMMUNITY CASH RECEIPTS



The Historical Society is collecting Village Market cash receipts from now until Memorial Day. You can put receipts in the drop box mounted on the back door of the Museum at ANY TIME. Gas receipts must be stamped with "CC" by the cashier to count. Thank you for choosing to support the History Museum in this way.

