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Island Faces Preserving the Past in a Demanding World

By Karen Gould

The first challenge to historic preservation on Mackinac Island came in 1876, just one year after the Island followed Yellowstone to become the second national park. Today, like Ellis Island in New York, the entire Island is ranked among the county's top historic sites,

holding the distinctive status as a National Historic Landmark. Unlike Ellis Island, Mackinac is a year-around working community that faces modern challenges in preserving historic structures. In addition to neglected and rotting structures that have to be torn down, accommodating modern tech-

nology and expected comforts like air conditioning often conflict with preservation standards. Now, state and national preservationists speculate that Mackinac Island could follow the path taken by Chicago's Soldier Field last year and lose its National Historic Landmark

status.

"Mackinac Island is an outstanding, exceptional place of national significance," said Dr. Jane Busch, addressing historians, preservationists, and travel experts at the 27th Annual Historic Preservation Conference at Grand Hotel

Saturday, May 5. "We need to make some changes in order to keep it that way. I wonder what we're waiting for?"

Now a preservation consultant based in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, Dr. Busch was hired

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Mackinac Tour Guides Ready for Busy Summer

By Sean Ely

When tourists arrive on Mackinac Island ready to explore as soon as their foot touches the dock, they are in luck. The Island has horse-drawn carriages and tour guides on Main Street ready to serve the public. Mackinac Island Carriage Tours and Arrowhead Carriages offer guided island tours, equipped with adventurous stops along the way.

Trained guides drive the horses and relate interesting history and random facts to their customers, and they enjoy introducing them to the interior of the Island.

"The problem with a lot of the visitors is that they stay right on Main Street and don't see the rest of the Island," said Holly Scoles, a Mackinac Island Carriage Tours guide,

originally from St. Charles. "When you get toward the center of the Island, you realize how much more there is to this place than just fudge."

The Mackinac Island Carriage Tours operates general tours from a ticket booth next to the Tourism Bureau, across from the Arnold Dock. The company, along with Arrowhead Carriages, operate hourly tours from in front of Marquette Park.

"It seems like a majority of people are here to really just see the horses."

-Daniel Sparks, tour guide

Tour guides from both companies hear the general questions right away. What are the names of the horses? How many fudge shops are there? Are we going to go by the Grand Hotel? How many people live on the Island year-around?

When it comes down to it, one subject outweighs all the

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Holly Scoles of St. Charles, a summer tour guide for Mackinac Island Carriage Tours, introduces herself to an afternoon group before touring Main Street. This is Miss Scoles' second year with the company. The Carriage Tours' ticket office is on Main Street, next to the Tourism Bureau.

Two To Be Graduated in Class of '07

By Sean Ely

As the two graduating seniors in Mackinac Island Public School's class of 2007, Kristi

Kamphuis and Scott Roguska, have had opportunities that graduating students in larger high schools may have never received. At a K-12 school with only 70 students, immediate attention is always available for those who want or need it.

"All of the teachers know the kids really well," Mr. Roguska said. "There is a much more personal level of teaching here. It's comforting to know that the teachers care and you're not just another seat. That's always been positive, but at the same time, there can be negatives. They've known you for so long, they remember the bad things you did, too."

Miss Kamphuis and Mr. Roguska do not procrastinate when it comes to making life decisions. They have known exactly what they've wanted to do with their lives for many years.

"I've always wanted to be a cosmetologist," Miss Kamphuis said. "I decided that I am going to go to Grand Valley for four years and major in business. Then, I'm going to go to cosmetology school after all of that. I've always wanted to do hair, as far back as I can remember."

Mr. Roguska's lifelong dream has been something he has actually been able to practice, simply by owning a video camera. Mackinac Island has been the setting for many of his

self-made movies, a passion he has had since he was 10 years old.

"I want to become a filmmaker, so I've been trying to focus my attention on things related to that as much as I can," Mr. Roguska said. "We don't have anything here offered towards that, so I took an online class. I've been taking creative writing classes and working on the yearbook."

Mr. Roguska, who attended a larger middle school until 6th grade, and spent one winter at a high school of 2,100 student in Florida, knows the road to a film degree is in reach. He has the pathway all mapped out and he's ready to face any barriers that stand in his way.

"I've been accepted to Grand Rapids Community College," Mr. Roguska said. "I'm in the process of getting my transcripts from the school I attended in Florida over to Grand Valley and I'm going to try and be accepted there. I don't think GRCC offers anything for film, so if I do go there, I'll focus on their basic classes you need for college and then after two years of core classes, I'll go on to an actual film school my last two years."

A week ago, Miss Kamphuis and Mr. Roguska were not thinking of large college classrooms and curvy career roads.

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Island Bicycles Awaiting Auction



Approximately 200 bicycles will be auctioned by the Mackinac Island Police Department Saturday, May 26, beginning at 10 a.m. on the steps of Community Hall on Market Street. No minimum bid is required on the bicycles, which were either abandoned or impounded and never retrieved by owners. Interns with the police department, Adam Laninga (left) from Grand Valley State University and Jeremy Hingston of Lake Superior State University, spent several days sorting the bicycles and preparing paperwork for the auction. Last year, the department auctioned 109 bicycles and raised \$1,062; an additional \$381 was earned through bicycle license fees, said Mary Marquis, a senior public service safety officer at the department. A bicycle license costs \$3.50.