



Town Crier

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Islanders Hear Solutions for Keeping Landmark Status

Preservationists Share Historic District Idea, Funding Options

By Karen Gould

To protect historic sites and buildings that relay the story of Mackinac Island's past, people have to "want" to do something, said Dr. Jane Busch at a preservation conference at Grand Hotel in May. Having the desire to preserve, she emphasized, is the starting point.

A preservation consultant, Dr. Busch, seven years ago, prepared the nomination to the National Park Service to establish all of Mackinac Island as a historic landmark. She was joined by other preservation, travel, and tourism experts who spoke at the Michigan Historic Preservation Network conference, chaired by Island resident

Frank Pompa.

A local historic district ordinance established under Public Act 169 of 1970, said Dr. Busch, would provide the best protection for the Island's historic resources. Established in 1970, PA 169 also allows communities to establish historic districts and historic district commissions. Approximately 60 communities in Michigan have them, she said.

"I realize, though, that adopting an ordinance is a big step for a community to take," she told the *Town Crier* Tuesday, May 22. "A lot can be done using incentives, education, and zoning, including improving the city's current system of architectural review."

Two Graduated in Mackinac Island School Class of '07

By Sean Ely

"Never, never, never, never give up."

Those were the words that echoed off the gymnasium walls by guest speaker Phil Porter, director of Mackinac State Historic Parks, whose advice, once spoken by Winston Churchill, was meant to motivate graduating seniors Scott Andrew Roguska and Kristina Allison Kamphuis. Mr. Porter told the graduates that they should be proud of themselves and that a world of opportunity sits right before them. He told them to go out and embrace it.

Mackinac Island Public School graduated Mr. Roguska and Miss Kamphuis at 7 p.m. Friday, May 25, in the gymnasium in front of their family, friends, advisors, and teachers.

The Reverend Vincent Carroll, pastor of Little Stone Church, gave the opening prayer and wished the seniors luck in the future before Superintendent Roger Schrock introduced the Class of 2007.

The superintendent told the story of how Miss Kamphuis came to Mackinac Island in the middle of her eighth grade school year, and in the middle of winter. He complimented her skills in volleyball and encouraged her to continue the sport at Grand Valley State University in the fall.

She eventually plans to become a licensed cosmetologist and operate her own shop.

Mr. Roguska's primary interest has been film-making. He plans to attend college and

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Scott Roguska and Kristi Kamphuis, Mackinac Island Public School's class of 2007, stand behind the school building, overlooking the Straits of Mackinac.

Architectural review procedures, already in place on the Island, should include pre-project photographs of sites and buildings and photographs of nearby properties, said Dr.

Busch. Having this additional information available would enable a more comprehensive analysis of construction or remodeling plans.

Island architect Rick

Neumann, a conference attendee, agrees.

Educating property owners and the public so they can be

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Island Work Featured on 'Dirty Jobs'



Keith Cripps (left) of Mackinac Island Carriage Tours holds up a Carriage Tours jacket the crew gave to Mike Rowe of the Discovery Channel television series "Dirty Jobs." The men had delivered to the company a team of horses just arriving on the Island for the season from a farm in the Upper Peninsula. At the Carriage Tours Cadotte Avenue barn are (from left) Mr. Cripps, Jim Pettit, Mr. Rowe, Dave Cripps, Frank Cripps, Dale Peterson, and Mark Bielinski. (Photograph courtesy of Mackinac Island Carriage Tours)

Discovery Channel Show Gets the Dirt on Toughest Island Jobs

By Karen Gould

Mike Rowe, host of the Discovery Channel television series "Dirty Jobs," spent four days in the Upper Peninsula last week, tackling the challenging maintenance work of the Mackinac Bridge and driving a horse-drawn sloop wagon, considered by some the dirtiest job on Mackinac Island. Area residents and businesses welcomed the television crew with unparalleled hospitality, said show producer Dave Barsky.

Known for showcasing the

American work ethic of men and women across the county who perform jobs that few want to do, Mr. Rowe painted bridge suspension cables 250 feet above the Straits, climbed a main cable to change a decorative bridge light, and crawled inside the base of a bridge tower to remove rust and repaint steel.

On Mackinac Island, he cleaned horse manure from Main Street and drove the horse-drawn sloop wagon of restaurant food waste to the

compost site at the Solid Waste Handling Facility.

An air date for the shows filmed here has not yet been scheduled, said Mr. Barsky.

Film crews shot Mr. Rowe's Island adventures Tuesday, May 22, and Wednesday, May 23, they scouted and planned two days of filming on the bridge. The project ended Friday, May 25.

"He really looked nervous," said Bob Sweeney, executive secretary of the Mackinac Bridge Authority (MBA), of Mr. Rowe moments before he climbed the main cable to change a bridge light.

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Planners Prepare for Lilac Festival June 8 - 17

By Eric Fish

The 58th Mackinac Island Lilac Festival is fast approaching. With 10 days of events from June 8 to 17, the popular festival promotes Mackinac island and attracts visitors from throughout the nation.

The Lilac Festival is characterized by family events during the day and live entertainment at the Pink Pony, Horn's Gaslight Bar and Grill, Gate House, and Patrick Sinclair's Irish Pub in the evenings.

The 10-day event draws as many as 15,000 spectators and participants and has remained popular over the years, despite the decline in Michigan tourism, said Mary McGuire Slevin, Mackinac Island Tourism Bureau director.

"It seems to be growing, with more tour groups coming early and midweek the last couple of years," she said. "The Lilac Festival is very important to the economy of the Island."

To ensure that this year's fes-

tival is a success, the Tourism Bureau has increased advertisements state-wide. Aside from increased radio advertisements, more promotions have been distributed in Michigan welcome centers in addition to regional advertising in Traverse City, Petoskey, Gaylord, and Harbor Springs.

Similar to the annual Michilimackinac Pageant over Memorial Day Weekend in

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