

# Stuart House Museum Reports Successful Year

**By Karen Gould**

Following a successful summer with more than 12,000 visitors to the Stuart House Museum, volunteers there have asked the Mackinac Island City Council to consider a plan to hire a second employee, paint the lower level of the building, improve air flow on the main floor, and obtain more displays from wood carver Dale Gensman this year. Council discussed the plan at its meeting Wednesday, February 27, and sent it to the Finance Committee for review.

Rejuvenated last year by volunteers led by Candi Smith, the city-owned Stuart House Museum on Market Street ended the year with \$8,931. The building once served as the clerk's quarters of John Jacob Astor's American Fur Company and the home of agent Robert Stuart. Today, the museum tells the story of the Island's key role in fur trading. Previously, Mackinac Island Carriage Tours operated it under a three-year contract with the city.

The volunteers asked for donations from visitors, rather than charging an entrance fee, and through their efforts raised \$17,427.25. Expenses were \$8,496.24 including the salary of one employee, Sylvia Perault.

"I think it was absolutely amazing and remarkable the amount of money you took in," said Mayor Doud. "I think you should be commended."

The operations plan includes a request for a \$30 salary increase for Mrs. Perault, to \$330 a week. Last season she was paid \$7.50 per hour for a 40-hour week.

"I don't think any of us sitting here had any question that

Sylvia wouldn't be back," said Mayor Doud. "We want Sylvia back. She does an excellent job and has her heart there. People like to talk to her because she is an Islander."

The plan suggests Mrs. Perault be given authority to make decisions on hours of operation requests a second employee, if volunteers are not able to fill in when needed. The museum volunteers, states the plan, also would like a committee established to work with wood carver Dale Gensman, who has contributed replicas of Island buildings to the museum. The plan calls for obtaining more of the replicas. Removing a wall that blocks the view of the back door and adding a screen door to the back entrance would increase air flow on the main floor. A new brochure, states the plan, is needed for the museum. The plan requests volunteers be gathered to scrape and paint the lower level of the building.

Last April, Council approved seeking bids to paint the north and west outside walls of the building, although the project never moved forward.

During Wednesday's meeting, Mayor Doud praised the group's efforts.

An annual payment of \$15,000 from the Coca Cola Bottling Company to support operations at Mackinac Island Medical Center was approved by Council. The payment allows the company to claim Coke is the official soft drink on the Island. One year remains under the agreement.

A temporary motor vehicle permit for Richard Coates for a tractor was renewed for 30 days. Alderman Jason St. Onge said he had talked with Mr. Coates. Unable to remove the

tractor from the Island with no boats running, Mr. Coates sought the renewal to follow city policy. Alderman Armin Porter reminded Council the permit already had been renewed several times, and he said this should be the last renewal approved.

Two temporary motor vehicle permits were renewed until March 15 for Rob Fraser of Maverick Construction for a forklift and crane for work at the Mustang.

Council placed on file five letters from the Department of Environmental Quality. The letters acknowledge that applications to dredge in the harbor near the docks had been withdrawn.

Those withdrawing the dredging request were Doug Yoder of Lindale, Georgia, Bob Benser of Mackinac Island, Union Terminal Piers of Mackinac Island, Star Line Ferry of St. Ignace, and Ann and John Dennany of Gaylord.

Council agreed to make three purchases, including buying its telephone system for \$1,341.50, as the city's lease was up, a laptop computer for the fire department for no more than \$1,050, and no more than \$1,000 for a new computer for City Clerk Karen Lennard. A maintenance agreement was approved for a copy machine with Williams Office Equipment in Cheboygan for an annual fee of \$2,160.

Council went into executive session for 30 minutes with city attorney Tom Evashevski to receive an update on ongoing litigation involving the Annex property owned by Len and Sue Webster. No decisions or actions were taken.

# Island Recreation Plan Adopted

**By Karen Gould**

An update of short- and long-range goals are the only changes made to Mackinac Island's five year Recreation Master Plan, which was adopted by the city council Wednesday, February 27, following a hearing.

Topping the short-range goal list is the need to build a recreational facility. Recreational programs now are held where space and facilities are available on the Island, often at the school or at Community Hall.

Projects at Great Turtle Park are the focus of the many of the recreation department's short-range goals. A new outdoor lighting system is needed, as replacement parts are no longer available for the park's current lights. Adding sand to the horse riding arena would improve the riding surface. To help teach new riders, more training aids are needed, including jumps and cavaletties, which are used to teach a rider and horse timing, striding, and balance. The volleyball court requires a second layer of sand. Landscaping, including contouring the sledding hill and removing weeds, is another goal of the city.

Long-range goals of the recreation board include connecting the trail around Great Turtle Park, erecting a roof over the ice skating rink, and developing city owned land known as East End Cove near Mission Point Resort. The board also would like to construct restrooms near the playground at the school, build an indoor horseback riding arena, and establish a golf driving range.

The recreation plan is necessary for the community to receive grants from the Michi-

gan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). It must be updated every five years, and Mackinac Island's plan expired in December 2006.

Since the plan is past the revision deadline, said city Recreation Director Leanne Brodeur, the state now will review the entire master plan as if it were new. The plan is expected to be submitted to the DNR this month.

Revisions were done by the recreation board, which includes Chairman Mike Hart, Armand "Smi" Horn, Paul Wrandie, Mike Gamble, and Barb Fisher.

During the public hearing, Mrs. Brodeur also gave report on 2007 recreational activities. Through the spring and summer last year, sports camps were offered to youth, in soccer, volleyball, and basketball. Youth softball and archery were offered.

Some fall and winter programs, she reported, were canceled. Halloween events will be changed this year, although no plans are finalized.

The ice rink was not built as inconsistent cold weather at the onset of winter brought difficulties for creating ice. Extreme cold weather during the Christmas tree lighting halted planned hay rides.

Under consideration are an adult computer class and an adult archery program.

Two spring-action playground horses now at the school will be moved to Great Turtle Park. Often broken at the school site by adults, the horses will be placed near similar ones at the park, where they are not damaged, said Mrs. Brodeur.

The city is also scheduling summer sports camps for youth.

# Miniatures Have Positive Affects on Patients

**Minis:** *Continued from page 18* for these little pets. Dwarfism is a concern in miniature breeds and breeding circles. As you may have gathered, there are many people who breed these creatures only to show.

The American Miniature Horse Registry is a division of the American Shetland Pony Club, and was established in 1972. The Miniature Horse

Club of Great Britain last year alone set a record membership. According to the experts, a "miniature should be a small, sound, well-balanced horse, and should give the impression of strength, agility, and alertness. A miniature should be eager and friendly, but not skittish in disposition."

The activities director at Jane Manikoff's nursing home


is keen on arranging more visits with these little horses this spring for patients. The group, Personal Ponies, has been used in Florida to interact with physically challenged children and adults. They've had positive affects on people who have suffered grief, abuse, or who are patients in short-term, long-term, and hospice care. People want to pet, touch, and brush these creatures, as well as talk to them.

Mrs. Manikoff perhaps said it best that day in Florida. When asked how she liked the visit from Boo that her daughter had arranged for her, she replied, "I love horses. I have always loved horses. This reminds me of Mackinac."

*Candice Dunnigan is an active member of the American Equestrian Association, the Waterloo Hunt, and the Mackinac Horsemen's Association. Seasonally she resides at Easterly Cottage.*

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