

Governor Appoints Commission for War of 1812 Bicentennial

Dunnigan, Porter Named to Commission

Brian Dunnigan and Phil Porter were appointed by Governor Jennifer Granholm to serve on a new commission that will plan events for the 2012 bicentennial of the War of 1812.

Mr. Dunnigan, of Mackinac Island and Grass Lake, is an author of many books on Michigan history and is interim director at the University of Michigan William L. Clements Library in Ann Arbor, as well as Curator of Maps, head of Research and Publications, and head of Reader Services.

Mr. Porter, of Cheboygan, is the director of Mackinac State Historic Parks and, like Mr. Dunnigan, an author of many books related to the Straits area history.

Both men are part of a 15-member board called the Michigan Commission on the Commemoration of the Bicentennial of the War of 1812, which will plan for the celebration of the War of 1812 in 2012. The commission's first meeting is in Lansing Monday, April 28.

Bill Anderson, head of the state's Department of History, Arts, and Libraries, will likely be the chairman of the commission, said Mr. Porter.

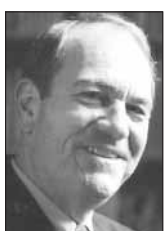
The first land battle of the

War of 1812 happened on Mackinac Island July 17, 1812, when the British captured Fort Mackinac from the Americans in a surprise attack, arriving on the north end of the Island where what is now called British Landing.

Mr. Porter said Mackinac State Historic Parks also has a committee to plan events and programs in the Straits area for the bicentennial.

Mr. Dunnigan has written two books related to the War of 1812, "The British Army at Mackinac 1812-1815," and "War of 1812."

Other appointees include George A. Zimmermann of Okemos, vice-president of Travel Michigan; Donna L. Budnick of Harbor Springs, a legislative services attorney for the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians; Robert A.



Brian Dunnigan



Phil Porter

Bury of Grosse Pointe Park, executive director and chief executive officer of the Detroit Historical Society; David C. Hales of Farmington Hills, social studies consultant for the Wayne Regional Educational Service Agency; Molly A. Luempert-Coy of Saline, regional manager of DTE Energy; James A. McConnell of Livonia, special projects coordinator and news editor of the Michigan Council for History Education; Richard G. Micka of Monroe, co-chairman of the Monroe County War of 1812 Bicentennial Experiential Tourism Subcommittee, chairman of the International Wildlife Refuge Alliance, and retired vice-president of La-Z-Boy Incorporated; Patricia E. Mooradian of Bloomfield Hills, president of The Henry Ford; Dennis E. Moore of Dearborn, public affairs officer for the consulate general of Canada; Ralph T. Naveaux of Monroe, retired director emeritus of the Monroe County Historical Museum and chairman of the Monroe County War of 1812 Bicentennial Steering Committee; and James E. Spurr of Portage, president of the board of directors of the Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society.



Hoppenrath Wins Quilt Raffle

Kay Hoppenrath was the March 20 winner of a quilt raffle sponsored by Mackinac Straits Hospital Auxiliary. The quilt was made by Linda Lozen. Ms. Hoppenrath will donate it to the Medical Center's annual auction in August to raise funds for winter operations.

Library Programs Announced

There will be three more children's reading and craft programs at the Mackinac Island Public Library this spring.

A circus elephant-theme program will be held Wednesday, April 16, where young children can create colorful elephants and glue them on a wooden stick. An activity involving elephants will also be held.

On Wednesday, April 23, flowers will be the theme. Children will make flowers with different shapes from craft material, and on Wednesday, April 30, participants will make paper rainbows and string them to tissue paper on self-stick vinyl.

All programs begin at 12:30 p.m. at the library. The programs are coordinated by Deb Styburski.

Call the library at 847-3421 for more information.

Mackinaw Visitors Bureau Sees Potential To Draw International Tourists

By Paul Gingras

"We are going to promote the heck out of this area and try to pull off another increase," said William Bertchinger, president of the Mackinaw Area Visitors Bureau board of directors, who noted that his member hotels saw a 6% increase in room rentals in 2007, despite the struggling state economy.

Hoping to continue the tourism momentum of last year into the upcoming season, the Visitors Bureau will continue to publish its Vacation Guide, which it finds an effective marketing tool, expand its advertising into Ontario to draw Canadian visitors to take advantage of their favorable exchange rate on the dollar, and host a celebration to highlight the Labor Day Mackinac Bridge walk this

fall.

Owing, in part, to celebrations for the 50th Anniversary of the Mackinac Bridge last season, Mackinaw City enjoyed a surge of tourism that lasted well into autumn, Mr. Bertchinger told *The St. Ignace News*. Many people who had not visited the area for years returned, and some who were in the area earlier that summer came back for the bridge celebration, boosting business.

This year's bridge walk is also an historic occasion, Mr. Bertchinger said, so the bureau is planning a fireworks celebration and will issue a commemorative coin. The first bridge walk was in 1958, making 2008 its 50th year. The first walk took place in late June, and all following bridge walks took place on

Labor Day.

Differences between the bureau and the village council over marketing should be resolved easily, Mr. Bertchinger said. The council is concerned that focusing on the 50th anniversary of the bridge opening last year, and the 50th bridge walk this year, could be confusing.

"We feel that the walk on Labor Day has tremendous historic significance for the many families that have shared memories on that weekend over the past 50 years," Mr. Bertchinger said.

Shortly, the bureau will distribute 5,000 commemorative Bridge Walk coins to its 57 hotels and 107 associated businesses. They will be sold for \$4 each, and the Visitors Bureau

expects strong sales.

Compared to years past, the Mackinaw City area faces a more challenging economic climate, but the economy will not

necessarily hurt tourism in the Straits area, he said.

With the resignation of Executive Director Marilyn *Please turn to page 18: Tourism

Lakers Boys Fall to Panthers in Class D District Tourney

By David Latva

Mackinac Island fell to Pickford 67-60 in the Class D district semifinals held on the Panthers home court Monday, February 25.

The Lakers prepared for the tournaments this year with high expectations after completing the regular season with a perfect 18-0 record and the championship in the Northern Lights League, but during the final weekend series against Beaver Island, Robert Chambers broke his hand.

"Not having Robert was a big blow to our game plan," said Lakers coach Jim Fisher. "We as a team felt that this could have been the year that Mackinac Island could win their first district game in school history."

McKinley Portice was a one-man wrecking crew for Pickford as the sophomore scored 35 points.

"Portice hurt us on the outside and inside. He was the difference," added Mr. Fisher.

Mackinac Island opened the contest with a 15-6 lead after the first eight minutes and maintained a 27-23-halftime advantage despite Pickford holding a 17-12 margin in the second quarter.

The turning point came in the third quarter as the Panthers outscored the Lakers 21-12 to take a 44-39 lead into the final period and completed the district matchup with a 23-21-scoring edge in the fourth quarter.

Lakers statistics: Woody Be-

ardsley, 21 points; Tyler McLean, 14 points; Riley Chaffee, 12 points; Michael Gamble, 11 points; Paul Fisher, two points.

Panthers statistics: McKinley Portice, 35 points; Dylan Rye, 12 points; Mickael Cantin, nine points; Jamie Nettleton, five points; Paul Walsh, four points; Pat Savoie, two points.

No Districts Competition for Mackinac Island Girls

Mackinac Island girls didn't compete in the district tournament this season.

"We are a very young program and felt one year under our belt would help for next season," said Lakers coach Mary Patay.

Lakers Earn Post Season Honors

Six Mackinac Island Lakers basketball players received post-season honors following the 2007-2008 season.

Woody Beardsley received All-Upper Peninsula honorable mention honors and was named to *The St. Ignace News* All-Area Top Ten/Second Team.

Receiving special mention from the Lakers were Marie Bunker and Morgan Brodeur-Bunker for the girls and Robert Chambers, Michael Gamble, and Tyler McLean for the boys.

Lakers To Join EUPC For Spring Sports

Mackinac Island Lakers will join Cedarville, Pickford, DeTour, Cedarville, and Brimley as members of the Eastern Upper Peninsula Conference for spring sports in golf and track and field.

City Seeks Order To 'Deconstruct' Webster Home

By Ryan Schlehuder

Mackinac Island City Council will seek a court order to "deconstruct" Len and Sue Webster's partially built home in Hubbard's Annex after it learned at its meeting Wednesday, March 12, that the May deadline to finish the project will not be met.

After closing the public meeting to discuss litigation options with its attorney, Tom Evashevski, Council agreed to direct Mr. Evashevski to seek a court order from 11th Circuit Court in Mackinac County to require the Websters to remove any construction material from the property, refill the land, and pay fines for not meeting the May 15, 2008, deadline.

Only the foundation of a two-story home has been constructed over a nine-year period. The court order required the Websters to have a framed and erected home near completion by the deadline.

Council, as well as Annex residents, have charged the

unfinished project is a blight and hazardous to public safety. The Websters have already been fined \$500 for not meeting construction deadlines, said Mr. Evashevski, after the meeting.

"The premise was that the court gave the Websters one more chance to finish the project," Mr. Evashevski later told the *Town Crier*. "Now we're at the end of the road, and we know that's not going to happen, so we are ready to go back to the court and determine what degree of deconstruction needs to be done to remedy the blight."

Seven permits for temporary use of a tractor to deliver building material to the Webster property were withdrawn by the couple's builder, Weiss Builders of St. Ignace, prior to the council meeting.

Council deliberated for five minutes in a closed session over litigation involving Betty Be-Dour, who began construction on her Mission Street home without having a city-issued

building permit and a variance. She was granted approval by the city eventually, however, the work had already been done, thus Council agreed she violated the city's building ordinance and will be charged with a civil infraction.

Debra and Sandra Orr's request to change the areas of their two lots on Cadotte Avenue so that both will meet the city's 5,000-square-foot minimum building requirement was approved. They will take 1,993 square feet of Lot 3 and add it to Lot 2 to make it 5,004 feet. The remainder of Lot 3 will still have 5,530 square feet.

Council readopted its permits and fees ordinance, making no changes this year. Mayor Margaret Doud's assistant, Kelly Bean, said the ordinance should and will be reviewed yearly and updated accordingly. She and building inspector Dennis Dombroski reviewed the ordinance and updated fee changes that have occurred since 2002.