



*Deephaven Historical Society Newsletter*  
*Summer Report 2006*

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**Deephaven Days  
# 2 Another  
Success!**

We had another successful triathlon and picnic with our Historical Society booth a favorite again this year. We enjoyed seeing friends and neighbors and exchanging memories of past days in Deephaven.

Thanks again to all the volunteers for setting up and manning the booth! We look forward to next years event!

**AUTUMN  
CRUISE**

It's that time of year again! Our 5th Annual Autumn Cruise is tentatively planned for sometime this October.

We will be sending notices soon to all our members with the time and date of our next, much anticipated, cruise on Lake Minnetonka!



**Grill and Chill Review**

Our June 14th "Grill and Chill" meeting at the Minnetonka Yacht Club was attended by many members of our historical society. It was a beautiful evening and the food was fantastic! The invited speakers were enjoyed by all! All in All a wonderful evening!

Please be sure to keep watch in the Fall newsletter for the date & time of our next outing—the Minnehaha Cruise in October!

In keeping with our regular practice of highlighting part of early Deephaven history we were fortunate enough to receive from Barb Sykora the following article. We are passing this along in sections. Here is the first.

### **History of St. Louis Bay, Deephaven, Minnesota by Barb Sykora**

This is a history of the view from my home, which looks out over the Bay of St. Louis on Lake Minnetonka in Deephaven, Minnesota. There have been generations of people that have come down to this small bay to enjoy its waters and natural beauty, but few people know of its' long history as a tourist destination. From the first settlers to arrive in Minnesota, to the visionary hotel and land developers and ultimately to the birth of an incorporated village, the Bay of St. Louis has evolved from a wilderness to a suburb of Minneapolis in less than forty years.

The beginning of the tourism industry at Lake Minnetonka can be traced directly to the growth and economic climate of the state of Minnesota. In 1849, President Zackary Taylor appointed Alexander Ramsey as governor of the new territory of Minnesota. The total population of Minnesota was 4,780 and the first public school opened in Hennepin County. This area of the county did not receive regular postal service until 1850. Settlers were dependent upon supplies being brought in from great distances. In St. Anthony, the largest town in this area, the population did not exceed 300 people. The only way to reach Minneapolis was by riverboat, then stage-coach. In 1851, Governor Ramsey negotiated two treaties with the Sioux and secured two million acres of land west of the Mississippi River, which included the Lake Minnetonka area.

Immigration in the United States first followed west to the Ohio River in the early part of the 19th century, which was followed by the settling of the Great Lakes areas of Michigan and then west to Wisconsin. Next, the tide of immigration continued into Iowa and in 1854 and for the next three years, the rush to new lands in Minnesota was unparalleled.

To encourage tourist and settlers, Minnesota touted itself as one of the healthiest climates in the world. Many of the writing by Minnesotans wrote in defense of the climate. Henry H. Sibley, Minnesota's first territorial delegate to the Congress of the United States, wrote that "sickness has no dwelling place" here in Minnesota.

Before people understood that germs spread sickness, many diseases were attributed to bad or poisonous air. This erroneous assumption by the medical community at the time was made on behalf of malaria which was believed to be caused by miasma, which was vapor emitted from swamps. Since Minnesota was free of miasma and had cool air, it incorrectly lead people to believe that this area of the country was free from other ills and ailments such as yellow fever, liver ailments, dropsy, and derangements of the stomach and bowels. One gentleman who moved here for his health and to escape the malaria outbreak in Indiana was one of the founders of the Mayo Clinic, William Worrall Mayo.

The Minnesota climate was even thought to be a cure for consumption or tuberculosis in the early stages, was believed to be caused by unfavorable climate conditions. In a book written as a favorable propaganda by author John McClung in 1870, he wrote about Minnesota's "fresh, pure, cool air, rich life sustaining oxygen, which is now flooding his veins with new blood, and through it, has reached every defect in the system and strengthen it.

He sleeps long and soundly, he eats voraciously; he improves; he is cured." Minnesota weather was considered a cure-all for many illnesses. Many moved here and vacationed here to improve their health.

To show how great the weather was in Minnesota the state itself published statistics on the mortality, comparing itself to other states in the union. Minnesota had the second lowest mortality rate of any state except for Oregon. An example of statistics gathered, then published and used as propaganda, was that St. Paul had a population of 18,000 in 1867 and there were only 272 deaths, a ratio less than any city in the universe! The theory was that because of our low temperatures during the winters here in Minnesota, diseases did not have a chance to survive.

*This article by Barb Sykora will be continued in our Autumn newsletter.*

### DHS Results of Annual Election

The annual meeting of the Deephaven Historical Society was held for the purpose of electing officers and board members. The three board seats up for election have been re-elected and remain held by Mary Lou Bennis, Nancy Bach and Bill Robinson. Thanks to all who participated in this years election!

#### Historical Society Display Cabinets

We have continued to add to our two new display cabinets located in the City Hall Council Chambers for the use of the Historical Society.

Come see the donations, models and photos of our lovely Deephaven area as it has grown! We are always looking for artifacts that document the history of Deephaven. Old photos, newspapers, and documents are welcome.

#### Renewed Memberships

Thanks to all who sent in their renewals for DHS membership! If you have friends that are interested in participation in the DHS please refer them to any officer of the DHS and we will make sure they get an enrollment form.

#### Thanks to Maxine!

A Big Thanks to Maxine Dickson for the very interesting guests she'd obtained for our last meeting at the Minnetonka Yacht Club! Their topics were enjoyed by all!

#### Thanks to Jim!

Thanks to Jim Wyer for, again, joining us and answering questions about Deephaven. Also for all the history notes he's given and for several pictures he's given from his collection. Very much appreciated!

*We would encourage anyone who has pictures of their own or of neighbors older homes to add them to our collection.*

# DHS

## Acknowledgements – Current members

### Thank You!

John Ahern  
Tim & Pat Alt  
Tom & Nancy Anderson  
Nancy Bach  
Courtney Ballin  
Steven & Leah Barnacle  
Marty Baskerville  
John & Nan Beard  
Mary Lou Bennis  
David & Marion Bickford  
Patricia Blanch  
Dianne H. Brackett  
Tom & Sue Brakke  
Richard & Jean Brown  
Beth Burgan  
Barbara Burgum  
John & Janette Burton  
Mildred L. Carbonneau  
Kevin & Maristel Conry  
Kim Crockett  
Sarah & Alan Dale  
Donald Davis

Maxine Dickson  
John Dupont  
Paige & Ruth Eldridge  
Robert & Judith Evans  
M.J. Florance, Jr.  
Rosemary Fruehling  
Furst Foundation  
Rob & Ann Furst  
Jerry & Pam Gens  
Bob Gerlicher  
Paul & Ann Gesme  
Marty Gilbert  
Rosemary Gluek  
James & Jean Haverstock  
Louise Heffelfinger  
Barbara & Leslie Hexum  
Gordon & Betty Huber  
John, Rudy, Allyson Jaffray  
Kathleen Jewett  
Burton Johnson  
James & Camilla Johnson  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Jones II  
Barbara King  
Frederick & Caden Ladner  
Sheila Laughlin

Walter & Constance Linder  
Tom & Barbara Maple  
Robert & Siri Marshall  
Tom & Carol McGoldrick  
Doug McNaught  
Leo & Marcia Meloche  
William, Wright, & Kathleen Messerli  
Nancy Middleton  
Tyler Middleton  
Mark & Michelle Mitchell  
Edgar & Elizabeth Morsman  
Kimberly Ann Murphy  
Susan Neff  
Dan & Joan Nelson  
Nan Nicolle  
Jim & Lisa Nielsen  
Alan & Rosemary Norton  
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Peters  
Judd Peterson  
Julia Cole Peterson  
Tom Pokonosky  
Ronald Poole  
David Pratt  
William & Patricia Priesmeyer

Gary & Susan Rappaport  
Mark A. Read  
Dorothy C. Robb  
Bill & Donna Robinson  
Robert Schmitt  
Mary Scholer  
Romaine & Ben Z. Shank, Jr.  
Craig & Maureen Shaver  
Clinton & Lois Shaw  
Karen & Marcella Nord Shoemaker  
Fred Simon  
Lewis Sopko  
Dennis & Nancy Stanga  
Peggy Stefan  
Tom Sween  
Bryan & Barbara Sykora  
Michael & Laurel Traxler  
Sandra Napolitano & Chris Wallace  
Brad Warner & Lisa Tirner  
Paula Winter  
Jim & Leigh Woodburn  
Robert & Nancy Woodburn  
Dr. Gary & Vicki Wyard  
George & Cynthia Yared

## Take advantage of the books that are available for sale at City Hall!

Picturesque Deephaven	\$15.95
The Excelsior Amusement Park	\$10.95
Life in the Early Days of Cottagewood	\$ 6.25
A Post Card History	\$ 25.00
Sunsets	\$50.00
Lake Minnetonka 1850 – 2000	\$32.00
Lake Minnetonka 1905	\$20.00
The 1893 Handbook & Souvenir	\$10.00
Minnetonka Yacht Club Centennial 1882 – 1982	\$15.95
<b>NEW!</b> Minnesota Vacation Days	\$34.95

## DHS Meeting Schedule

Deephaven Historical Society meetings are held the **last Saturday of each month at 8:30 AM at City Hall Council Chambers.** All members are welcome.

These meetings involve planning and reporting by the committee chairs, the board, and the President.

Plans for the upcoming year are discussed as well as decisions regarding the gathering and distribution of funds.

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## DHS Committee

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