

WCC Director's Corner

By Steve Cotherman

From my catbird seat at the cultural center I have a good vantage point to watch all of the activities and interactions that take place around town. I got to thinking about what it is that makes Washburn work, and it's clear to me that the efforts of volunteers play a huge role in the life of our little town by the big lake. Just take a minute to consider all of the services and activities that we sometimes take for granted that wouldn't exist without volunteers. Start with the folks up at the fire hall who provide often times life-saving emergency services or our elected city council members, working to make Washburn a more viable and sustainable community.

Closer to home, I've gotten to know a whole bunch of tireless volunteers who devote their time and energies to the cultural health of Washburn and the bay area—from preserving our family histories to promoting the preservation of historic buildings, from fostering the visual arts to encouraging the beautification of our yards and parks, from teaching kids the joys of winter silent sports to supporting sailing, paddling and biking as life-long healthy habits.

So, why do they do it? We're all so busy in our daily lives, where do we find the time and energy to give something extra to our community? I did a little digging and came across the Corporation for National & Community Service; the

CNCS has an informative website* where you can get some insight into those basic questions and lots of tips about how to volunteer. Turns out there are plenty of benefits to volunteering.

Perhaps the first and biggest benefit people get from volunteering is the satisfaction of incorporating service into their lives and making a difference in their community and country. The intangible benefits alone—such as pride, satisfaction, and accomplishment—are worthwhile reasons to serve. In addition, when we share our time and talents we: solve problems, strengthen communities, improve lives, connect to others, and transform our own lives

Volunteering Is Good for You!

But it also turns out that volunteering can benefit your health! The CNCS reports that over the past two decades we have also seen a growing body of research that indicates volunteering provides individual health benefits in addition to social ones. Their report, titled "The Health Benefits of Volunteering: A Review of Recent Research," has established a strong relationship between volunteering and health: those who volunteer have lower mortality rates, greater functional ability, and lower rates of depression later in life than those who do not volunteer.

Comparisons of the health benefits of volunteering for different age groups have also shown that older volunteers are the most likely to receive greater benefits from volunteering.

Some of these findings also indicate that volunteers who devote a "consider-

able" amount of time to volunteer activities (about 100 hours per year) are most likely to exhibit positive health outcomes.

Well, now we know. Volunteering is not only good for the community but good for you! So, next time you see a flyer for a Jackie's Field playground equipment fund raiser, think about all of the Washburn moms devoting their precious "free" time to that effort. When summer rolls around, and the EMS folks are selling raffle tickets out in front of IGA, give some thought (and money if you can) to support their very important work. When the Washburn Beautification Foundation raises money to keep our city's parks and gardens looking so good, ask how you might contribute to that effort. And when 4H-CANSKI or the North Coast Cycling Association need a helping hand, please consider lending one.

From my perspective, I would encourage you to get involved in supporting the cultural life of Washburn and the bay area. Volunteer on one of the Legacy Consortium non-profit boards. Make a donation to preserving the civic center. Attend city council meetings. Advocate for the preservation of and best use of Washburn landmarks and historic sites. Join CBAC and participate in one of their annual exhibits. Give your time to the WHA or WAHS, both working hard to preserve our history and architectural heritage. And if you have any time or money left, don't forget to support the Washburn Cultural Center—this grand old building at the center of our cultural community.

 $\verb|^*nationalservice.gov/serve-your-community/benefits-volunteering|\\$

WASHBURN LEGACY CONSORTIUM MEMBERS:

Washburn Legacy Consortium Members

P.O. Box 725, Washburn, WI 54891

washburnculturalcenter@gmail.com

www.washburnculturalcenter.com

(715) 373-5591

Washburn Cultural Center Washburn Area Historical Society Washburn Heritage Association (WAHS) (WHA) (WCC) Celebrating 35 years! Heritage 1981-2016 **MISSION:** The Washburn Cultural Center is MISSION: WAHS is a non-profit member-**MISSION:** Enrich the experience of living in ship organization created on April 23, Washburn by telling the compelling stories a community center dedicated to fostering, presenting, and preserving the cultural, 1981 to collect, interpret, and preserve of the unique architectural and cultural artistic, and historical life of Washburn and heritage of the area. Washburn's colorful social history by the surrounding area. maintaining public museum exhibits and visual/manuscript/artifact archives. **DESCRIPTION:** The Cultural Center is a **DESCRIPTION: WAHS accessions DESCRIPTION:** The Washburn Heritage Association strives to preserve our architectural place for cultural enrichment and serves as donated items of historical significance an educational resource and architectural into its extensive collection, preserves and cultural past through education, focal point for the entire Washburn them for posterity, and exhibits them in entertainment, research, documentation, community. Our building is listed on both the Washburn Historical Museum, located and planning. WHA recognizes the intrinsic the State and National Registers of Historic on the second floor of the "Old Bank value of the historic buildings and residences Places. Known as "The Old Bank Building," Building." Exhibits highlight logging and in the area, and promotes and celebrates the magnificent brownstone structure was lumbering, quarrying, shipping, fishing, sustainable revitalization of the built and built in 1890 by A.C. Probert, founder of the schools, churches, home life, businesses, natural environment. Knowing that the stories Bank of Washburn. agriculture, the DuPont Plant, military and memories of area elders and long-time service, and seasonal recreation with a residents contribute to our collective history spotlight on surfing innovator Tom Blake. and sense of place, WHA works to make these stories known. **ACTIVITIES:** The WCC Board manages **ACTIVITIES: ACTIVITIES:** · Accession donated items; inventory/cata-• Brownstone Days Historic Home Tour and and cares for Washburn's iconic 1890s bank log archival collections; curate collection building and is working to build an open the Trolley Tour through historic Washburn exhibits for Washburn Historical Museum: • Summer and winter Tony Woiak History and inviting place for all kinds of community open museum as often as possible Festivals, co-sponsored with WAHS programs and events, from hosting baby via volunteer docents; sponsor spring showers and high school graduation parties • History-themed art shows co-sponsored museum tours for area students; provide with CBAC to housing the Washburn Historical Museum, free computer access to ancestry.com • Historic building notecards and historic from presenting a full slate of monthly art during museum hours city maps/placemats production and exhibits to creating programs for young and Co-host seasonal Tony Woijak History distribution old alike, from operating a retail gallery and Festivals with WHA antique store to hosting the annual Holiday • Washburn Walking Tour booklet • Maintain active affiliate ties wth Wisconsin Boutique. All of these activities and more will distribution Historical Society and Bayfield County • Façade Improvement Awards and façade continue to be on our radar in the weeks and Historical Society consults with business owners months to come. Your input is important, • Select "Washburn Honored Citizens" and • Preservation-themed service projects are so if there are things you think ought to be host Homecoming reception happening at the Center, please let us know! being developed with high school students • Participate in Brownstone Days **BOARD MEMBERS:** Dick Olson, Pres.; **BOARD MEMBERS:** David Bratley, Pres., **BOARD MEMBERS:** Carla Bremner, Pres.: Lvnn Adams, Don Ekstrom, Andrew Grimm, Bob Ungrodt, Jedd Ungrodt, Dan Satran, Jan Bergman, Joan Bratley, Betty Ferris, Patra Holter, Sandy Johnson, Dora Kling, Peter Van Evera, Jana Van Evera, Jane Pat Summerfield, Lorraine Young; Jill Lorenz, David Nyhus, Ginny Pedersen, Halvorson At large: Ruth Amraen and June Steel Sharon Stewart. Advisory Board Members: Gary Holman, Jane Weiler, Ken Weiler **CONTACT INFORMATION: CONTACT INFORMATION: CONTACT INFORMATION:** Washburn Area Historical Society Washburn Heritage Association Washburn Cultural Center P.O. Box 272 P.O. Box 814 Steve Cotherman, Director Washburn, WI 54891

washburnhistorical@yahoo.com

Or on Facebook

Washburn, WI 54891

(715) 373-5212

www.washburnheritage.org

Washburn Historic Preservation	Historic Civic Center Foundation	Chequamegon Bay Arts Council
Commission (WHPC)	(HCCF)	(CBAC)
Washburn	Established 2013	CHEQUANICON BY ANY COUNCIL
MISSION: To safeguard the city's heritage by preserving sites and structures; improve property values; protect Washburn's attractions; and support business by educating the public about the need of a historic preservation program.	MISSION: The Historic Civic Center Foundation (HCCF) purpose is to provide financial support for community-wide programs that benefit the Washburn area and establish a new hub for tourism in the Bayfield peninsula.	MISSION: The Chequamegon Bay Arts Council is a non-profit member organization that supports, develops, and promotes art and artists in northern Wisconsin.
DESCRIPTION: The Historical Preservation Commission (HPC) was established in 2003 under a new state ordinance and is comprised of members of Washburn's Common Council and the Mayor. During our years of service, we have created several local designations, including the Washburn Family Dentistry building, and The Washburn Cultural Center. We repaired and moved the Kitchen Building in Memorial Park. And in 2015, we accomplished our state and nationally designated Historic District comprised of homes along 3rd Street East.	DESCRIPTION: The initial project of the HCCF is the renovation of the historic Washburn Civic Center building. The building has been gifted to the HCCF. This major donation has resulted in opening up of new avenues for revitalizing the City of Washburn. These include: • community gathering space • charitable mission to the community • tourism hub • downtown business district economic development support	DESCRIPTION: Established in 1981, CBAC works to assure that residents and visitors have access to art's enriching possibilities.
ACTIVITIES: Most recently the HPC has worked on finalizing the process for creating wayfinding signage for historic sites throughout the City, creating a page on the City's website, and initiating efforts to collaborate with the Washburn schools to encourage student participation in HPC activities. The commission is always interested in helping local residents and businesses with preservation efforts and local designations where appropriate.	ACTIVITIES: The HCCF is focused on continued renovation of the first floor so that the building can be reopened. This includes construction of a handicapaccessible bathroom, parking lot improvements, HVAC system, and interior construction. Having the Washburn Area Chamber of Commerce office and the Wisconsin Lake Superior Scenic Byway Regional Tourist Information Center up and running is the next goal. As part of this project, the Fireplace Room will be open and can be used for community events, presentations, business meetings, and private rentals.	ACTIVITIES: CBAC accomplishes its mission by providing: • grants and scholarships in support of artistic development, creation and presentation; • communications with members and the public through various media; • art exhibitions, workshops and special events, including annual fund raising and membership activities designed to enable us to meet our goals.
COMMISSION MEMBERS: Scott Griffiths, Mayor, Richard Avol, John Gary, Robert Arquette, Jennifer Maziasz, Mary McGrath, Mary C. Nowakowski, and Jeremy Oswald	BOARD MEMBERS: Jeff Anderson, David Eades, Jim Nowakowski, Mary Nowakowski, Robert Olson	BOARD MEMBERS: Joanne Meierhofer, Pres., Kathleen Broadwell, Ann Christensen, LeeAnn Frey, Diana Granger, Pamela Hayes, Dorothy Hoffman, Grace Hogan, Chris Lindsey, Sarah Lund, Sharon Stewart
CONTACT INFORMATION: Washburn Historic Preservation Commission 119 Washington Ave., Washburn, WI 54891 http://www.cityofwashburn.org/ committees.html (715) 373-6161	CONTACT INFORMATION: Historic Civic Center Foundation 3 West Bayfield Street, P.O. Box 144 Washburn, WI 548891 www.washburn-hccf.com (715) 301-0819	CONTACT INFORMATION: Chequamegon Bay Arts Council P.O. Box 25 Washburn, WI 54891 www.cbayarts.org Joanne Meierhofer, Pres., (715) 685-2350

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The **Brokedown Palace** building has been not only a private residence but also a movie theater, furniture store, funeral parlor, supper club and a bar?

By Carla Bremner

Have you wondered about the future of the Brokedown Palace building? What new use will be found for a building that has had so many functions? Most recently it was a private residence. Other prior uses include a furniture store, funeral parlor, movie theater, restaurant/supper club and a bar and restaurant.

And many of us are wondering what will become of the Liz Hawkes building and the storefront building next to the Snug—older buildings with history and character. Hopefully, they will be preserved and used.

Some excellent examples of preservation and/or adaptive reuse in our city are the Washburn Library, Bayfield County Courthouse, Washburn Cultural Center, Chequamegon Books, Washburn Family Dentistry, Washburn Hardware and the former Ross Marine building.

The Washburn Heritage Association originally formed to save one of Wash-

burn's iconic buildings. While we have moved on to other preservation projects, we are currently revisiting our mission statement to be sure it expresses our interest in our landmark buildings. We are fortunate to have so many historic structures still in use in our town. These buildings provide a link to the past that is irreplaceable. "If we don't know where we have been, how will we know where we are going?" is an oft repeated cliché that certainly applies to Washburn. Thanks to many forward-looking people, we do know where we have been. The sense of place



derived from our history is an important tool for progress and future planning.

If you are interested in our buildings or have ideas about them, please join us at any of our monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Washburn Cultural Center. We greatly appreciate the support we receive from so many people here in Washburn and around the country.

We hope to see you at the Seventh Annual Tony Woiak History Festival in January and February at the Harbor View Events Center. ■

This historic Brownstone structure is an excellent example of adaptive reuse of a building. Originally the Meehan Mercantile Company, the building is now home to Chequamegon Books Company. It is owned by Carol and Richard Avol, who undertook a complete renovation in 1995. They have retained the original integrity of the building while making it usable for contemporary purposes.

DID YOU KNOW?

The **Chequamegon Bay Arts Council** serves both Bayfield and Ashland counties but has members from around the country

By Joanne Meierhofer

The Chequamegon Bay Arts Council, while anchored in Washburn, serves both Bayfield and Ashland counties. Our board members are from Bayfield, Washburn, Cornucopia, Port Wing, and Ashland. Even though we have members from literally all over the country, we restrict grant recipients to artists and organizations in Bayfield and Ashland counties. CBAC rents

space at the Washburn Cultural Center for our exhibits, and we hold our monthly meetings on the third floor. On the fourth Monday in January, every year we hold an annual meeting with a potluck dinner and program featuring our grantees from the previous year. Join us this year on January 22 for our 2018 annual meeting.

CBAC's annual fundraising event, Art on the Bay raised the funds to support our

grants program. The Wisconsin Arts Board matches up to \$7,000 each year, which also goes to grant giving. On January 23 from 10 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., CBAC and the Wisconsin Arts Board will be cohosting a Town Meeting at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center. Following the meeting will be a technical assistance workshop from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. For more information: artsboard.wisconsin.gov.

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The Washburn Area Historical Society Museum was voted the 'Best of Bayfield County-

Museum/Historical Site' for 2017

By Pat Summerfield

An online survey held last summer asked visitors to vote for their favorites in 14 categories. The "Best of Bayfield County—Museum/Historical Site" award was presented to the WAHS Museum by the Bayfield County Tourism Department, which will feature the museum in an article on the their website and on their Facebook page.

WAHS raises funds through memberships, donations, benefit events, the sale of items in the Museum store, and auction/ rummage sales. The Christmas Dessert Café and the Scandinavian dinners in the spring also support the Society. The Tony Woiak History Festival, sponsored jointly with the Washburn Heritage Association, has completed its sixth year.

One of the places the historical society finds local history is in newspapers such as The Washburn Times, which was edited by Ernie and Jan Korpela. Photojournalist Chick Sheridan and columnist Ernie Holman also contributed to the paper.

The excerpts below appeared in a story entitled "Harvey Irish Recalls Washburn's Pioneer Days," which appeared in the August 11, 1949 edition of The Washburn Times. The story records a "recollective speech given by Harvey Irish, old time Washburn resident, at the old-fashioned picnic held at Memorial Park on Sunday afternoon, August 7th."

Harvey Irish talked about the early history of Washburn and recalled the following facts about Washburn.

Harvey Irish Recalls Washburn's Pioneer Days

- My first sight of Washburn was the year 1883. At that time our family lived in Ashland.
- · My father was President of the Northern Pine Logging and Towing Company, who were engaged in logging on the Sioux River. There was no railroad to Washburn at this time. To reach Sioux River, one had to go by boat or over the old Military Road. One branch of the Military Road crossed Sioux River where the "Big Rock" is located in the Town of Bavview. The County Board set off the Town of Washburn the winter of 1883.
- The valuation of town lots at this time ran from \$2.00 to \$50.00. Valuation of timber land was \$400.00 per forty. Today wild or cut-over land is assessed in some districts at \$400.00.
- The first newspaper in Washburn was the Washburn Itemizer, edited and owned by J.A. and E.R. Barager.

- John Anderson was the first Chief of Police in Washburn.
- The town began to boom in 1884. The whole block where the Washburn Times is now located was built up in business places. Peter Nelson had
 - a hardware store on the corner where Norlin & Spears have their law office. Wm. Burns had a saloon east of the Times office as now located. Aune and Overby built the Opera Block which was located next door to Harold Anderson's Food Store.
- Washburn had a Variety Show House run by a man named DuCate. It was situated about where the Beauty Shop is located. On the front of the block facing the lake was the Ferguson house. Opposite the Fruit Growers' Assn. Building, Reuben Slattery had a saloon and boarding house. Andrew Everson had a butcher shop and Wm. Furlott owned a bar-



- ber shop. There were other buildings and saloons.
- Hotel Washburn was built in 1884. The first post office in Washburn was located on the corner where the Federal Forest Office is now located. A man by the name of Patter-

son was postmaster and also ran a general store in connection with the post office.

- In October 1884, our family moved from Ashland to Washburn. Father and G.F. Hulbert owned and built the first sawmill in Washburn. The mill was destroyed by fire in October 1886.
- In the winter of 1884, the first school building was located where the ice house is now situated near the depot. Mary Nelson was the teacher. She had about 20 pupils.
- In October 1884, nine persons were killed due to a washout on the Omaha railroad at Pike's

- Creek. Andy Johnson's father was one of that number.
- The oldest house now standing in Washburn was built by Thomas E. Lawrence in 1884 and believe it or not it is owned and occupied by one of the oldest residents of Washburn, Mrs. Kate Donahue. The Hochdanner and Stark farms were in operation at Sioux River. Theirs were the first two farms in Bayfield County.
- The winter of 1884 a logging camp was situated right back of Wm. Pristash's residence. It was owned by Best and Boutin of Bayfield. The logs were banked on the bay front in the Memorial Park. At this time, the park was one big clearing (no trees of any kind). This will give you a true picture as to the age of the pine trees in the park, which are 65 years old.
- At this time, most of the log hauling was done by oxen. The only ox teamster that I know of who is living is James Starr of Ashland, Wisconsin, formerly of Washburn.

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The **Washburn Cultural Center** hosts all kinds of get-togethers, for folks of all ages

By Steve Cotherman

The Cultural Center has many flexible gallery and meeting spaces available for public and private exhibits and get-togethers. The building is used by a wide variety of organizations, groups, and individuals. Each month sees a different art exhibit in our first-floor galleries by local and regional artists. Twice each year, the Chequamegon Bay Arts Council presents exhibits—a show in March open to the community and their annual members "Gathering" exhibit in October. A highlight each year is the Washburn School District student art show in April. The rest of the year, we host shows by outstanding regional and local artists and from time to time feature the Center's permanent collection of art, the only public art collection in the region.

Our open, warm, and inviting third-floor space comes equipped with a restroom and kitchen—and just in the last year has hosted baby showers, birthday and graduation parties, holiday family dinners, and even funeral receptions. Local organizations, like ABC Thrift Shop, the Lions Club, the CBAC board, and Recovery Worship, hold monthly meetings at the center. We've hosted multi-session Tai



The Washburn Cultural Center is thrilled to be attracting new, younger audiences. "The Grand Order of Practicing Alchemists" takes over the Cultural Center on Saturday nights for their monthly get-togethers, a unique take on role-playing games.

Chi classes, and each February Karlyn's Gallery takes over our third floor for a week-long intensive painting workshop.

Most recently, we have been very happy to host the Groundlings' children's theater group for play rehearsals. Bringing younger audiences to the Center is one of our primary goals and hosting a bunch of kids having lots of fun and learning something new is especially gratifying.

Speaking of new, younger audiences, we're thrilled to be hosting monthly get-togethers by the Grand Order of Practicing Alchemists who take over the Cultural Center on Saturday nights for their unique take on role playing games.

Their "Haunted Mansion" is a live action gaming event where players take on the roles of unique characters and spend the evening solving puzzles, fighting monsters, or stabbing each other in the back, all in an attempt to escape the Mansion alive. The game theme and rules change every month, so there's always a new and exciting experience awaiting. And the best part is, most of the game players are young millennials—in their 20s or still in college. Hopefully, these Cultural Center users will take a life-long interest in preserving our historic building, discovering local history, supporting the arts, and actively participating in Washburn's rich cultural life.

The Washburn Cultural Center would like to acknowledge its members and donors for their generous support in 2017.

2017 gifts in memory of:

John Jennie Celmer Wilner Ekholm John Foltz Bernadette Garland C.K. Geisert Phyllis M Gierzak Bernard Guski Donald E Hanson Glenn Hudson Roy A. Hudson Ronald W. Johnson Bill Lindsey Don Lindsey Harold Moe Isabel Moore Carolyn Swanson O'Brien Florence & Chester Pachoski Ed & Elsie Simoneau Wayne Simoneau The Anton Swanson Family A. "Brownie" Thorson George Tranmal (WHS class of '53)

2017 gifts in honor of: Marlyce M. (Wickstrom) Ols

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Ungrodt Properties
Sara Ungrodt
Washburn Lions Club
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The Washburn City Council has restructured the

Washburn Historic Preservation Commission

By Mary Nowakowski

Recently the Washburn City Council reviewed its options concerning the Historic Preservation Committee.

The five-member commission had two vacancies, which meant if one person were absent, the committee would not have a quorum. The city hadn't been able to fill those vacancies. The council decided to restructure the committee's duties, making the duties of the Historic Preservation Commission become the duties of the council.

Going forward, the powers and duties of the Historic Preservation Commission will include:

- Review and study of historic properties and sites within Washburn with respect to nominations to designate a City Historic Property.
- Review of applications and issuing Certificates of Appropriateness pertaining to exterior modifications of buildings on the local register.
- Assisting with the application process for persons seeking to have property listed on the state register of historic places or the national register of historic places.
- Provide information to interested individuals in understanding and

- meeting the eligibility requirements for such programs as investment tax credit programs, grants, or loans that may be available with respect to historic rehabilitation efforts.
- Educate the public regarding the benefits to the community, businesses and property owners from historic preservation.

The Commission will meet on a regular basis, as needed, but no less than two times per calendar year. The Common Council by majority vote, or the Mayor, shall have the authority to call and schedule meetings.

Join today! Receive discounted membership when you join more than one of the following groups working to preserve Washburn's heritage and history!

For each organization you wish to join or contribute to, please check the box that corresponds to the membership level and amount you choose.

Washburn Cultural Center \$5,000Lifetime \$500Benefactor \$75Business \$40Family \$25Individual \$20Senior/Student In Memory In Honor of:	Washburn Area Historical Society \$25Busine Profes \$15Family \$10Individ \$ Additional Contri	sional ual	Washburn Heritage Association \$500Benefactor \$100Business \$50Patron \$35Family \$20Individual	Washburn Historic Preservaion Commission ☐ I am interested in applying to the City of Washburn to become a commission member. Please contact me at: .	Historic Civic Center Foundation I would like to make a contribution to help fund the next phase of restoration of the Civic Center in the amount of: \$	Chequamegon Bay Arts Council \$1,000Benefactor \$500Sponsor \$250Patron \$100Donor \$75Business \$50Art Enthusiast (Family) \$25Art Enthusiast (Individual) \$15Senior/Student/ Starving Artist
2 Tally the amounts you've chosen for each group. WCC\$		Name Organization				
Mail your check made payable to: Washburn Cultural Center P.O. Boy 725 Washburn Wil	\C\$	Mailing Address City	State	Zip		
	Subtotal\$		Phone			
by WCC to each group indicated.		TOTAL\$		Email		



WASHBURN LEGACY CONSORTIUM

Washburn Cultural Center P. O. Box 725 Washburn, WI 54891

Visit WCC's new website and...

- Become a WCC member online
- Read about the "Antique of the Week"
- Get news and info about WCC's programs

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CURRENT RESIDENT OR



One of the historical exhibits at the Washburn Area Historical Society Museum.



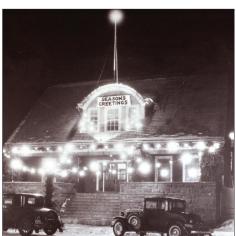
The Washburn Historic Preservation Commission repaired and moved the Kitchen Building in Memorial Park.



The Chequamegon Bay Arts Council's Spring 2017 community show inspired 65 works of art by 40 artists focusing on clean water.



Originally the Washburn Bank, which opened in 1890, the building was saved and reopened as the Washburn Cultural Center and Historical Museum in 1993.



(Above) The Washburn Heritage Association helped establish the National Register Third Street Historic District which includes DuPont Row.

(Left) The Historic Civic Center Foundation is currently renovating the Washburn Civic Center, which served as the social center of Washburn until the turn of the 20th century.