



Fall/Winter 2015

Important Highlights:

- **OHS Visit**
- **History Day**
- **Revised Logo**
- **Hymers Fair**
- **Project updates**

Inside this issue:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| President's Report | 2 |
| Revised Logo/Hymers Fair | 2 |
| Project update: North-Gunflint Lake | 3 |
| Project update: Highway Dedication | 3 |
| Upcoming events | 3 |
| About Us/Membership | 4 |

The Silver Express

OHS Comes Calling Again

On Wednesday, November 11th the society was very fortunate to receive a visit from the Ontario Historical Society (OHS) for the second year in a row.

OHS librarian Sarah McCabe paid a visit to the society as part of a cross-province tour of OHS affiliated groups. Joining Sarah on her visit to the Silver Mountain Station was City of Thunder Bay archivist Christina Wake-

field. The society was represented by President Dave Battistel, Treasurer Shelley Simon and members Gil and Cathy Erickson.

Sarah is the project manager of an initiative to visit with groups such as ours to better understand how the OHS can support us. It was a fantastic meeting and we were able to tell her all about our current and future projects, as well as the challenges of running a rural

historical society.

We look forward to keeping in touch with Sarah and hope that she can come to visit again in the future.



Sarah McCabe & Christina Wakefield visit with members of the SMAHS.

History Day

On Sunday, October 4th the society hosted its 4th Annual History Day at the Silver Mountain Station. This year's edition featured a society member and the launch of his publication on area history.

In late August Harold Alanen published his ground-breaking book on the history of the Nola-lu, Devon and Silver Mountain areas called "*They Came From All Around.*" This work chronicles the story of these areas from the Paleolithic period to the present and we were honoured to have him speak at History Day.

Have been born and raised in the area has given Harold a very

unique and intimate perspective on its history. *They Came From All Around* blends documented history with many personal narratives, including some from the author.

Harold's presentation included both visual and tactile elements. An amateur archeologist, he has spent a substantial amount of time searching for and uncovering artifacts, particularly in the Northern Lights and Gunflint areas. Harold brought some of his collection along with him.

Harold entertained and educated those in attendance, limited only by the time constraints of the event.

Copies of *They Came From All Around* can be purchased locally and we hope to have some available at the Silver Mountain Station. For more information, please contact dave@silvermountainhs.ca

Planning has already commenced for the 2016 edition. Dates and details will be discussed at the AGM.



Harold Alanen



Next society
General
Meeting:
March 2016



President's Report

Our third full year, 2015, was another exciting and successful one for the society.

In the past 12 months we have seen our membership grow along with our exposure. More people are learning about who we are and our efforts to preserve the history of the area. Let's hope that 2016 is just as successful in that regard.

There are a number of existing and new projects on the books. We hope to have the Highway 588 Dedication completed soon, work continues in the North-Gunflint Corridor and preliminary research has begun on the Silver Mountain Cemetery restoration. We are keeping very busy.

A long-term goal we have identified is to one day see the construction of a museum at Silver Mountain. While we are currently focussed on the preservation of historic sites, a museum would go a long way in helping us to achieve our objectives. Stay tuned!

Our financial situation continues to improve. This fall we paid some long-standing bills dating as far

Hymers Fair

The society once again had a presence at the 103rd edition of the Hymers Fall Fair. Every year our experience continues to improve and grow.

The booth was manned on Sunday by President Dave Battistel and on Monday by Director Kyle Duckworth.

This year we attempted to make our booth much more interactive, with historical objects and a display outlining our current and

back as the society incorporation. This coming year we should qualify for a government operating grant that would allow us to secure additional funds. A full financial report and update will be provided at the next AGM.

Last spring the society elected a new board of directors at the Annual General Meeting. There are several returning members to the executive as well as a few new faces. The current board will be in place until March 2017.

Hopefully you've noticed our revised logo adorning this newsletter, as well as appearing on our website and social media. We've had this logo for a while, but only chose to unveil it this year. The revised graphic better represents the interests of the society, mining and the railway. The iconic

Board of Directors

Dave Battistel, President
Kyle Duckworth, Vice-President
Shelley Simon, Treasurer
Brett Starrs, Secretary
Jeff Benedict, Director
Elle Andra-Warner, Director

PAD&W locomotive has been joined by an image of the stamp mill at the Silver Mountain West End Mine.

One thing the society could really use is an infusion "people power." The board can always use help when it comes to organizing and planning events. Sometimes an extra hand can go a long way. If you'd like to help out, contact one of the board members list below.

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proposed projects. There was a steady flow of traffic past our booth, with a lot of people stopping to chat or ask questions about the society.

We hope to expand in the future, with larger displays and possibly the acquisition of our own stand alone booth. It is certainly money well spent and helps to raise our profile in the community.

Over the two days we sold several memberships, as well as quite a

number of copies of the Lady Lumberjack book (from which we receive a share of the proceeds). Look for us again at this year's installment!



Society booth at the Hymers Fall Fair.

Project Update: North-Gunflint Lakes Historic Corridor

Work continues on the preservation of historic sites in the North-Gunflint Lakes Historic Corridor. These locations date from Archaic-period Natives, fur trade era voyagers and 19th/20th century railway, logging and mining ventures.

Working with the assistance of Andrew Jeanes, a cultural heritage specialist from the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS) in Toronto, the society has made progress in this initiative.

Mr. Jeanes has indicated that our next step is to have a heritage survey of the area done, which will need to be completed by a fully licensed archaeologist. The biggest challenge in this process will be to obtain the necessary funding to undertake this survey.

Once we have an estimate on the cost, we will be looking into options to raise the funds, whether it comes from government grants, donations or a combination thereof. We hope that our local politi-

cians and ministry representatives will be of assistance in this process.

We will hopefully have more to report at the society general meeting in March.



Defaced Gunflint Cross.



Project Update: Highway Dedication/Silver Mtn Cemetery

The society has two other important projects that we are working on; one is nearly completed and the other is just beginning.

The dedication of a portion of Highway 593 in honour of Dorothea Mitchell is now in the hands on the Ministry of Transportation (MTO). Dorothea Mitchell was a vital part of the history of Silver Mountain and the surrounding area.

All the necessary approvals were obtained from the local roads boards and an application was

submitted to the MTO. We are waiting for the final approval and for a price estimate for the signage. Thanks go out to Treasurer Shelley Simon for leading this important project. Please stay tuned for more details coming soon.

When the society was founded in 2012, one of the first projects we identified was the revitalization of the Silver Mountain Cemetery, also known as the Walker-Bessant Cemetery.

This initiative is being spearhead-

ed by society Vice-President Kyle Duckworth. Preliminary work includes identification of land ownership and consultation with the appropriate government agencies on how to proceed.

The cemetery is located a short distance from the Silver Mountain Station at the junction of Highway 588 and Northside Road. More information on the burials can be found here: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~jmitchell/bessant.html>

Upcoming events: Annual General Meeting

The society Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place in March 2016 at the Silver Mountain Station. The meeting will begin at 2:00pm.

Current and new members are encouraged to attend. 2016 mem-

bership fees can be paid at the meeting; only paid members will be allowed to vote on any resolutions.

The board will present the current state of affairs and provide updates on current projects and

initiatives. Question and answer time will follow.

Stayed tuned for other upcoming events, such as the 2016 installment of our very successful History Day program and other society sponsored events.

Stay up-to-date with the society blog. Visit it at silvermountainhs.com





SILVER MOUNTAIN AND AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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The Silver Mountain and Area Historical Society (SMAHS) was founded in October 2012. We are a non-profit organization committed to preserving the history of the Port Arthur, Duluth and Western Railway (PAD&W), the Silver Mountain Station and the surrounding area.

Our mandate includes the promotion of the railway, as well as the preservation of the remaining physical traces of the line and structures. We are also interested in the cultural and economic history of the area, such as settlements, mining and logging. Our geographic area stretches from the former railway stop at Sellers west to the US-Canada border at Gunflint Lake.

The SMAHS is governed by an elected board of directors and is affiliated with the Ontario Historical Society (OHS). We are headquartered out of the historic Silver Mountain Station, which was built in 1907 and is the last remaining station on the PAD&W line.

Membership

The Silver Mountain and Area Historical Society welcomes any and all new members.

Membership benefits:

- Invitation to special events and gatherings
- Regular newsletters
- Volunteer opportunities
- Voting privileges at the Society's Annual General Meeting



For more information on how to join us, please visit our website or email us at info@silvermountainhs.ca



Silver Mountain HS



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