

Huron

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Grand Forest Beach Club of the 1920s

To the west of Huron's first and second coves lie several neighborhoods on both sides of Cleveland Road (formerly Homan Road) that collectively were known as Grand Forest Beach. The area was platted and marketed in the early 1920s to residents of the land-locked town of Mansfield, Ohio as a summer lake resort. A 1923 brochure was designed to lure people north on Route 13 (formerly Route 299) to the sprawling beaches of Grand Forest, complete with a clubhouse (formerly the Esch/Wright House) as well as tennis and handball courts.

As the private neighborhood comprised of Ohio city-named streets on the north side of Cleveland Road grew in population, a pedestrian highway called "the path" became well-travelled by all ages. The streets on the south side of Cleveland Road, which were named after trees native to Ohio, were designated as public streets of the Grand Forest neighborhood. Residents of this area were granted beach rights to the northern section of Grand Forest in their deeds.

Originally platted as a township neighborhood, Grand Forest's 3100 feet of beaches were included in "the beaches" that were annexed to the village in

1955. "The beaches" included North Palm Beach, Oakpoint Subdivision (Ohlemacher's Curve), Grand Forest Beach, Willow Grove, and Rye Beach (formerly Wolverton Grove). For over a year there were public discussions about road maintenance, sewer and water taxation, and police protection as well as an injunction sought by a Grand Forest resident to halt the land-grab by the village before the referendum passed in 1955 to annex the lands from the beaches south to Bogart Road. The annexation allowed the village to add approximately 900 new residents, which gave the village the additional population needed for it to become a city in 1961. Surprisingly, even after the annexation had occurred, there were rumors that Grand Forest residents considered seceding from the city, threatening to leave Rye Beach an island of the city. Area newspapers referred to this as "detachment" and labeled the drama as the "Sectionist Movement".



save the date

Commercial Fishing in Huron: A Scan & Share Event

Join us in sharing photographs and information on Huron's Commercial fishing industry.

Wed., March 20, 2019 | 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Huron Public Library

2019 Membership Meeting

Mon., April 8, 2019 | 7:00 p.m.
Huron Public Library

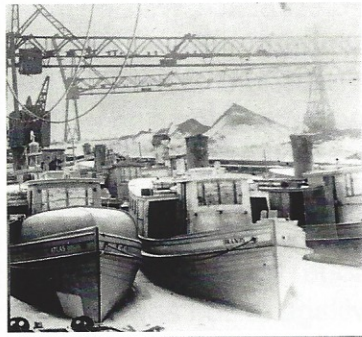
See reverse side for more information

Touch Screen Kiosk Update

We continue to work on the production of material for the portable touch screen kiosk that will be located in the Huron Public Library, the Boat Basin building and other areas in Huron. The society recently received a grant from the Mylander Foundation to fund the cost of the computer, cabinet and software needed for the project. This grant is in addition to money contributed for production costs by an anonymous donor. The kiosk will feature all aspects of Huron's history through the use of photos, narratives and actors portraying prominent figures in Huron's history.

Commercial Fishing in Huron: A Scan and Share Event

Join Bill Scott, a member of the society's board of trustees and the son of Harland Scott, a third generation Huron commercial fisherman, for "Commercial Fishing in Huron: A Scan and Share Event" Wednesday, March 20th, from 6:00 - 8:00 pm at the Huron Public Library. We are searching for photographs and information about Huron's commercial fishing industry to share on our touch-screen kiosk, which we hope to introduce sometime this year, and to add to our archives. If you would like to share your photographs, we can scan them that evening or at a later date if you prefer.



2019 Membership Meeting

The annual meeting of the Huron Historical Society will be held Monday, April 8th, 7:00 p.m. at the Huron Public Library. The program, which will include interactive trivia and maps, will highlight the growth of neighborhoods that led to the village of Huron becoming a city and adopting the city manager form of government. This meeting is for members only, but non-members are welcome to attend and become a member that night. All members will be entered in a raffle for a collection of Huron history books, DVDs and prints produced by the society.

Huron Historical Society Offers Online Store

Check out the Huron Historical Society's new online shopping cart on our website:

www.thehuronhistoricalsociety.org

You can renew your membership and buy gifts with our secure shopping cart. Just click the Membership or Gifts tab on the top of the home page.

Huron Historical Society Accomplishments in 2018

This past year the Huron Historical Society sponsored several programs featuring area historians. In celebration of Constitution Week, Huron resident and American Revolutionary War re-enactor, Lance Beebe, visited us in traditional uniform as a Son of the American Revolution. Historian and collector Jim Semon hosted two programs in the fall, one on the freighters that docked in Huron and one on the life of area photographer Ernst Niebergall.

"Downtown Interrupted" a documentary depicting Huron's urban renewal project that began in the 1960s, was presented at McCormick Middle School followed by an update of Huron's Vision 2020 plan by Mike Spafford, the city finance director.

The Huron Historical Society, in partnership with the Huron Joint Point Authority and the Huron Parks and Recreation Department erected five markers along the west side of the Huron River depicting the history of the Huron docks. The markers, which were designed by Huron resident Jennifer Kilbury feature photographs selected from the society's archives and text written by board member Kathy Muehlhauser. Maps of the markers' locations are available at the Boat Basin building.

Huron Historical Society board member John Jones was a key member of the McCormick Middle School 75th Anniversary committee, which sponsored several activities celebrating the school's historic milestone.

Huron Historical Society Announces New Hours

Beginning in February, the Huron Historical Society will be **open to the public Wednesdays from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.** A volunteer will be available to assist you with questions and show you the materials in our archives, which consist of photographs, maps, histories and documents pertaining to Huron. We also have various artifacts donated by Huron residents and businesses, but we do not have a large collection of family genealogies.

Stop in to see us!
Wednesdays from 4:00 to 6:00 pm