



The Sugarloaf Interpreter

A Publication Of The
Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association

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104 Hunter Building, 1st Avenue W. and Superior St.,

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Duluth, MN 55802

\$200,000 PAYMENT MADE ON TWIN POINTS MORTGAGE NOTE

An additional \$200,000 principal and \$20,600 interest payment has been made on the Twin Points mortgage note bringing total capital payments to date to \$410,000 of the \$750,000 total.

It is expected that the shingle beach shore will be designated a Scientific and Natural Area shortly and the land exchange for the Sugarloaf property will be finalized. Public hearings on the land exchange proposal will be held by the Department of Natural Resources.

Fund raising continues to complete the payment of the \$340,000 mortgage note balance.

THUNDER BAY CRUISE DETAILS FIRMED

The October 1-2 cruise on the "Grandpa Woo" to Thunder Bay and return is now in final planning stages. As now planned, members and friends will board the vessel at Grand Portage at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, October 1. The cruise will then proceed leisurely reaching Thunder Bay in late afternoon. We will disembark at the Prince Edward Hotel for dinner and an overnight stay, returning to Grand Portage by about 4 p.m. on Wednesday, October 2.

As announced earlier, the total fee for the cruise, all meals, and accommodations at the Prince Edward Hotel will be \$225 per person. Reservations should be made to Capt. Dana Kollars - 1/218/226-4100 - by September 15. In an emergency reservations can be made after September 15 by leaving a message on Kollars' answering machine.

- NORTH SHORE CALENDAR -

- June 17 - Shoreline Best Management Practices Workshops. Grand Marais Community Center, Monday, 2 p.m.; Schroeder Town Hall, Monday, 7 p.m. Cook County SWCD
- June 22-23 - John Schroeder Days, Schroeder. Arts-and-crafts fair, chain saw carving, story-telling contests, interpretive hikes, boat cruises, food, live music, dance, minnow racing. Tour of Sugarloaf site, Saturday, June 22, 2 p.m.
- June 29-30 - Park Point Art Fair, Duluth, Saturday, 10-6; Sunday 10-5. 110 fine artists and craftsmen, food, free shuttle and admission.
- July 12-14 - Country Kickin', Grand Portage. Lodge and casino; line dancing, Canadian and U.S. bands, barbecue.
- August 1-4 - Fisherman's Picnic, Grand Marais. Fishing contest, golf and tennis tournaments, crazy days sales, crafts, parade, carnival rides, 5-mile run, fireworks, platform events, street dances.
- August 3 - International Folk Festival, Leif Ericsson Park, Duluth. Cultural foods, fine arts, folk arts, traditional crafts, music, songs, dance.
- August 10 - Tour of Sugarloaf Site with Chel Anderson, 2 p.m. Meet at site, limited number. "Plants and Wildflowers." RSVP to Chel by Aug. 8. Phone 1/218/663-7603; P.O. box 2204, Tofte, MN 55615-2204.
- Aug. 9-11 - Grand Portage Indian Powwow, Friends of Grand Portage Annual Meeting
- August 17 - SICA Annual Membership and Board Meetings, Saturday. Go aboard "Grandpa Woo" at East Beaver Bay, 9-10 a.m. Membership meeting, 10 a.m.; Board meeting, 11 a.m. Both meetings on "Grandpa Woo."
- Sept. 28 - Visitor's Center Dedication, Gooseberry Falls State Park.
- Oct. 1-2 - SICA Cruise On "Grandpa Woo" to Thunder Bay and return. \$225 per person. Phone 1/218/226-4100 for information and reservations.

SHORELINK REACTIVATED

After a successful start about a year ago, the program known as SHORELINK suffered a hiatus because of personnel problems. It has now been reconstituted with Dana Kollars and Art Fenstad as co-chairs.

The group will again meet on a monthly or bi-monthly basis, and will provide a forum for North Shore groups to share problems and promote cooperative action on North Shore activities. A meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, August 1, at 6 p.m. The meeting will be on the "Grandpa Woo" which will be boarded at its dock in East Beaver Bay. Further details may be obtained by calling Capt. Kollars at 218/226-4100.

UNIQUE RACES COME TO NORTH SHORE

The North Shore has ski races, dog sled races, mini-marathons, and all sorts of outdoor races. But in the last two years snowshoe racing has been added to the list of tournaments. This year in four days (February 15-18) nine intrepid souls raced 66 miles from Two Harbors to Little Marais along the Hiking Trail. Known as the Good Thunder Snowshoe Superior Challenge of the Superior Hiking Trail Association, the 4-day event wound through untracked snow three to six feet deep. Winners were David Frank of Waconia, and Kris Dupey of Minneapolis. The 1997 Challenge has been designated as Wilderness Snowshoe Racing World Championships. Top athletes from around the world are expected to compete to make this a true world-class event.

•And another world-class racing event is scheduled for the John Schroeder Days on June 22 and 23. This is a MINNOW racing event. The publicity states, "The featured fish will shimmy down six lanes of capped rain gutters"! Talk about innovation!!!

STUDENTS PUT SILVER BAY ON THE MAP

Visitors to Silver Bay this year won't miss a thing, thanks to eighth graders from William Kelley High School. The students put together a self-guided walking tour that covers all the local sites of historical, recreational, and commercial interest.

The project was the brainstorm of social studies teacher, Dave MacDonald, who sought a creative way to teach geography to his class. The students mapped the route and decided what sites to include. Then each student researched a site using the collections of the Bay Area Historical Society. The final brochure design was produced from the students' sketches.

-Minnesota History Interpreter, Sept. '95

SICA ACTIVITIES

SICA will have a tent at John Schroeder Days, June 22-23. A tour of the Sugarloaf site will leave Schroeder at 2 p.m., Saturday, June 22.

Chel Anderson, SICA board member, will conduct a tour of Sugarloaf on Aug. 10, at 2 p.m. "Plants and Wildflowers." Meet at the site. Limited number. RSVP to Chel by Aug. 8. Box 2204, Tofte, 55615-2204. Phone 218/663-7603.

The SICA proposal to LCMR by board member Andrea Peterson for Ojibwe Indian history research has survived the LCMR first cut.

Funding for the small-boat harbor at Taconite Harbor failed to get legislative approval due to conference committee cutbacks.

The September issue of the Interpreter will contain an article on North Shore pioneer Iona Lind. The December issue will feature an article on the Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center.

A SICA speakers bureau has been established with Jack Hofslund as chair. Requests for speakers and names of volunteer speakers should be forwarded to Jack at 4725 Jay St., Duluth, MN 55804. Phone 218/525-5201.

Nominations for SICA Board membership and SIC officers should be forwarded to Barb Liukkonen, chair of nominating committee, 4828 Woodland Ave., Duluth, MN 55803. Phone 218/724-3034.

The SICA annual report (July 1995 - June 1996) will be available at the annual meetings on August 17.

Map Illustration For Article On Facing Page Map Compiled by Dr. John Mitchell Published in 1755



THE HISTORY OF THE MINNESOTA-CANADA BOUNDARY IN THE GRAND PORTAGE AREA

By WILLIAM E. LASS, Professor of History, Mankato State University

That portion of the Canada-United States boundary east of the northwesternmost point of Lake of the Woods was an outcome of the Revolutionary War. When American and British diplomats met at Paris in 1782 to consider the related issues of United States independence and boundaries, they discussed various United States-Canada demarcations. Their proposals ranged from Benjamin Franklin's not totally facetious suggestion that the British should just relinquish all of Canada to a British preference for an Ohio River boundary.

Once the diplomats agreed to compromise these two extremes, they seriously considered a forty-fifth parallel boundary east of the Mississippi. Such a line, which would have reached the Mississippi at present-day Minneapolis, would have given the United States the southern portion of Ontario and have left Great Britain in control of much of present-day Minnesota including Grand Portage.

Finally, after months of deliberations, the statesmen concluded that the northern and western boundaries of the United States, insofar as geographically possible, should follow waterways. Applying this principle to what they believed was a correct knowledge of geography, they agreed on a northern boundary carried westward to the source of the Great Lakes and a western boundary of the Mississippi River. Thus, the Treaty of Paris, which was signed in 1783, specified that the northern boundary of the United States west of the St. Lawrence River would run through Lakes Ontario, Erie and Huron to Lake Superior "thence through Lake Superior northward of the Isles Royale & Phelipeaux, to the Long Lake; thence through the middle of said Long Lake, and the water communication between it and the Lake of the Woods, to the said Lake of the Woods, thence through the said Lake to the most northwestern point thereof, and from thence on a due west course to the River Mississippi..." According to an inscription on the left margin of Mitchell's map, the Mississippi started northwest of Lake of the Woods.

The impossibility of establishing such a boundary was very apparent to later observers, but the diplomats relied on the most reputed North American map of their day. Throughout their deliberations they consulted Dr. John Mitchell's map, first published in 1755. Mitchell, a Virginia medical doctor, had compiled the map for Great Britain's Board of Trade. The badly flawed map showed a non-existent Isle Phelipeaux near Isle Royale, a Long Lake where the Pigeon River flowed, Lake of the Woods as the source of the Great Lake, and an elliptically shaped Lake of the Woods. (See illustration on facing page.)

More accurate geographical information would have been available to the diplomats if they had cared to seek it. The Montreal-based traders who controlled the Grand Portage business were intimately acquainted with much of the region west of Lake Superior. Most importantly they knew that the St. Louis River, rather than Lake of the Woods, was the source of the Great Lakes. However, the hurried negotiators did not have the time to consult traders and even if they had, the British would not have wanted to be influenced by them. Great Britain was anxious to get out of the war as quickly as possible to preclude being forced into negotiating collectively with the United States and its European allies - France and Spain. The geographical ignorance of the negotiators clearly benefitted the United States. Without doubt, if they had had accurate information the St. Louis River would have been fixed as the international boundary.

The American acquisition of the area east of the Mississippi did not immediately affect British traders at Grand Portage. Following the war they assumed the posture that they would not leave unless forced out. Under the domination of the Northwest Company, Grand Portage enjoyed its heyday when it was legally in the United States. However, the North West Company's partners recognized they had to find another

depot after and American customs agent from Mackinac visited Grand Portage in 1800. Faced with the imminent levying of American duties the partners launched a search for another waterway to the west. After their rediscovery of the Kaministikwia River route they transferred their operations from Grand Portage to Fort William at present-day Thunder Bay, Ontario in 1803.

The boundary question lay dormant until it was revived by the American and British diplomats who negotiated the War of 1812 peace settlement. Under the Treaty of Ghent signed on Christmas Eve, 1814, they agreed to define the Canada-United States boundary by establishing various commissions. The treaty's Article 7 provided for the surveying of the boundary between the western end of Lake Huron and the northwest point of Lake of the Woods.

Surveyors of the joint Anglo-American Article 7 commission did not start their field work west of Lake Superior until 1822. They were guided primarily by the wording of the Treaty of Paris and a copy of the Mitchell map. They immediately recognized that a boundary drawn from the north side of Isle Royale to the northwest point of Lake of the Woods would logically proceed from Lake Superior up the Pigeon River. However, the old Grand Portage trade route, because of its numerous portages, was not a continuous water route as the treaty had stipulated. Additionally, the chief British surveyor, the celebrated trader-cartographer David Thompson, argued that the inferred intent of the treaty makers to draw a boundary to the source of the Great Lakes had to be their main determinant. Consequently, the British claimed the St. Louis River should be the demarcation. Peter B. Porter, the American commissioner, countered with a claim to a Kaministikwia River boundary.

After four consecutive years of surveying between Lake Superior and the northwesternmost point of Lake of the Woods, Great Britain and the United States still clung to their utmost claims. Finally, in 1826, Porter and Anthony Barclay, the British commissioner, nearly reached a compromise. Barclay proposed that the boundary west of Lake Superior follow the Pigeon River and the old canoe route westward, provided the Grand Portage trail be "free and open" to citizens of both countries. Porter and the United States State Department rejected this offer because the old Grand Portage trail was not the most continuous waterway. In several places the truest line drawn through lakes and streams would have been north of the old route.

Agreeing only to disagree, Barclay and Porter adjourned their commission *sine die* in 1827. However, Barclay's proposal was accepted as a provision in the Webster-Ashburton Treaty of 1842. This agreement crafted by Daniel Webster, American Secretary of State, and Lord Ashburton, a special envoy of the British Foreign Office, resolved several long-standing boundary disputes.

But the treaty was only a diplomatic settlement. The boundary west of Lake Superior was finally marked in the period 1912-1918. In monumenting the boundary from the northwesternmost point of Lake of the Woods to Lake Superior, American and Canadian surveyors placed small metal monuments on both sides of lakes and streams. From these numbered markers the mid-water boundary line can be determined by the process of triangulation. Since 1925 the Canada-United States boundary has been maintained by a joint International Boundary Commission. Symbolically, the well-marked boundary represents the long transition from frontier era hostilities to harmonious relations between good neighbors.

(For the complete history of the boundary, see: William E. Lass, Minnesota's Boundary with Canada: Its Evolution Since 1783, St Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1980).

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Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association

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SICA Officers: President: Steve Pihlaja, Minneapolis
Secretary: Patricia Maus, Duluth

Vice-President: Barb Liukkonen, Duluth
Treasurer: Howard Olson, St. Paul

Twin Points Support

Yes, I/we will help Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association to keep Twin Points for public access with this gift to the Twin Points Purchase Fund.

\$_____ is my/our total gift commitment to be paid as follows: \$_____ is enclosed herewith.

\$_____ is pledged as follows:

\$_____ 19__

\$_____ 19__

\$_____ 19__

and/or: _____

\$_____ is pledged through a gift of insurance, real estate, a trust or will provisions as follows: _____

Name (please print) Signature Date

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Address City State Zip Home Phone

This gift can be matched by my employer.

Special gift designation if desired.

Make checks payable to Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association and mail to SICA, 104 Hunter Building, 1st Avenue W. and Superior St., Duluth, MN 55802.

SICA Membership Application

I like the idea of interpretation and education on the North Shore. I certainly believe that the important Scientific and Natural Area of Sugarloaf Cove, Beach, and Point should be protected and not be endangered.

Please enroll me as a member of the Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association in the category I have indicated. SICA is an educational, nonprofit 501 (c) (3) Minnesota corporation. Please send me, as a new or renewing member, my free copy of Howard Sivertson's "Once Upon An Isle: The Story of Fishing Families on Isle Royale."

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Date: _____

Membership Categories

_____ \$5 Student/Senior _____ \$50 Supporting

_____ \$10 Individual _____ \$100 Sustaining

_____ \$15 Family _____ \$500 Patron

_____ \$25 Contributing _____ \$1000 and up
Benefactor

_____ Payment Herewith _____ Please Bill Me

Make checks payable to Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association and mail to SICA, 104 Hunter Building, 1st Avenue W. And Superior St., Duluth, MN 55802. Memberships are annual and expire December 31, except those applications received after October 1. Thank you.