

# THE LARSMONT LINE

Larsmont Community Club • Mid-Summer 2011



Home of the  
Little Red Schoolhouse

If you are a resident  
of Larsmont,  
full or visit part-time,  
we invite you to get  
involved in the  
community.

Join the Larsmont  
Community Club for  
only \$10 per year.

Paid members get  
one free use of the  
Little Red Schoolhouse  
during the year,

Come to the  
annual picnic,

August 29, 2011,  
at 5 p.m.

for more information.

Open to everyone.

## Annual Picnic Promises Fun & Good Food



The annual Larsmont Community Picnic will be held again this year at the Larsmont Little Red Schoolhouse, August 29, beginning at 5 p.m.

The event moved to Monday several years ago, and ever since attendance has improved and the weather seems to always be perfect. Many feel that weekends attract poor weather conditions, making Larsmont's picnic THE one to attend.

If you're taking a vacation, it's the ideal time to come to the lake. If you live in Larsmont, take a couple of hours out from your hectic week and relax with friends. Who can come? Everyone in Larsmont, fulltime

*See 2010  
Picnic Photos Inside*

resident, parttime resident or visitor, is invited to the picnic.

Once again, the Larsmont Community Club will sponsor the event and provide food and talk for a flat fee of \$6 per adult and \$3 per child under 6.

Food is a combination of sandwiches, salads and drinks, provided by the Larsmont Community Club, and potluck desserts consisting of cookies and world-famous Minnesota bars, provided by attending members. The deli sandwiches and salads will come from Whole Foods Co-op in Duluth.

No RSVP is needed, but do show up and support the club and community. It's one way to catch up on what's happening in Larsmont and to see the community Schoolhouse.

## Project Day Sked for August 13

Each year, volunteers from the Larsmont community meet on a Saturday morning at the Little Red Schoolhouse to accomplish a few small miracles to keep the building and grounds looking spiffy. Last year, the group painted up a storm, coating one of the outside walls of the building, varnishing the new outhouse, cutting brush around the property and repositioning the light that shines on the flag.

This year, some of the same paint work will be needed for an additional side of the building and parts of the garage. Attention will also be paid to the new wood for the porch and ramp in front of the building.

All are encouraged to show up around 9 a.m. for a few hours of effort that finishes in time for lunch treats provided by Bev Erickson for the LCC crew. Those willing to donate part of their day for the painting should bring paint pads, ladders, paint trays, brushes and rags. A secondary rain date of August 20 has been selected.

Color versions of this and past newsletters are located on the Larsmont Website

[www.larsmont.org](http://www.larsmont.org)

## 2011 Community Club Annual Meeting Minutes



President Bill Tranah and Secretary/Treasurer Marlys Wisch conduct the proceedings at the Larsmont Community Club Annual Meeting in May 2011 at the Little Red Schoolhouse.

The Larsmont Community Club held its annual meeting on May 16, 2011, at the Little Red Schoolhouse. The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by President Bill Tranah.

Old Business –

- Report on 2010 annual picnic, weather good, 39 people attended, good time.

- Report on 2010 New Project monies of \$1,510 received, and a full report of 2009 toilet project and 2010 porch project available.

- Report on 2010 Maintenance Monies received of \$1,900.

- Report on Project Day 2010 – painting, staining, cut brush, moved flag light fixture to accommodate changing bulb, new plaque for bench.

- Report on 2010 activities: Pioneer School Days, Association meeting (Annual meeting) and picnic, two election days.

New Business –

- D.A.C. will continue to mow the lawn.

- Report on Building Maintenance Fund balance – \$2,940 as of May 15, 2011.

- Discussion on 2012 Maintenance Monies. Request amount, decided to ask for \$2,200. No discussion on New Projects Monies for 2012.

- President Tranah reported on the inspection done of schoolhouse property and well before and after blasting for highway projects. Reported on the draw-down testing of the well.

- Had a discussion about Helen Murphy's passing and what to do to honor her, decided to do a memorial from LCC in acknowledgment of the Murphys' contributions and painting of the schoolhouse over the years.

- Discussion on annual picnic (2011) – date will be August 29, food from Whole

Foods Co-op, more meat, less vegetarian sandwiches and more potato salad. Paul and Cindy Hayden agreed to pick up food on their way out of Duluth.

- Discussion on Work Projects Day – will be August 13 with backup on August 20 if bad weather. Need to do west wall of schoolhouse,

porch, eaves and gable on garage, scrub, buff and recoat floor.

President Tranah will see about getting Lake Superior School District buffer.

- President Tranah reported on the tangled cable in the flag pole

and hiring someone to replace the cable. Bill will contact the cable company.

- Report on 2011 activities on the calendar: baby shower, Pioneer School Days, annual meeting, rummage sale, huge crafters sale, annual picnic, clay workshop (two days).

Attendees thanked President Tranah and Secretary Wisch for all that they do.

Discussion on continuation of donation jug at annual picnic in memory of Walt Barthell, donations to go to the Building Maintenance Fund.

Election of Officers –

Holders of offices agreed to continue in their roles. Unanimous ballot for the officer group. Elected Officers are: Bill Tranah, president; Margaret Glass, vice-president; Marlys Wisch, secretary/treasurer; David Falk, groundskeeper; Dale Isackson, flag tender; Paul Hayden, newsletter editor.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marlys Wisch, Sec./Treas.



### Larsmont Community Club

701 Larsmont Road  
Larsmont, MN 55616

#### President

Bill Tranah

#### Vice President

Margaret Glass

#### Secretary/Treasurer

Marlys Wisch

218-834-5988

[mwisch@lakenet.com](mailto:mwisch@lakenet.com)

#### Building/Grounds

David Falk

#### Flag Tender

Dale Isackson

#### Newsletter Editor

Paul L. Hayden

Visit the  
Community  
Website at:

[www.larsmont.org](http://www.larsmont.org)

- Community News
  - Calendar of Events
  - Links to Resources
  - Story Contributions
- Help keep the website active.

Send your info to:  
[info@larsmont.org](mailto:info@larsmont.org)

[www.larsmont.org](http://www.larsmont.org)

## Teaching at the Pioneer School

by Sandy Watters, Elementary School Teacher

Larsmont is an excellent place to recreate a Pioneer School Day. For the teacher, it gives you a nostalgic look at how difficult it must have been to have multiple ages of children to teach with very limited resources. The advantage then was that going to school was the most important gift a child could be given. Today, education with all its state-of-the-art materials is not held in such a high regard as it was in pioneer times.

Teachers back then could enforce a strict behavior code or the child might not be allowed to return to school. Children learned from each other, shared materials and were actively involved in the upkeep and heating of their school

Teachers in pioneer times had only to teach the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic. Today, teachers are expected to teach so much curricula that it becomes difficult to fit all the subject matter in. Children in pioneer times had manners and respect for adults, especially teachers. Teachers were highly valued by their community. Parents wanted an education for their children so they could have a better future.

Discipline was much easier in the past, because teachers had total control to discipline as they thought necessary. Today's children are unmannered, outspoken, rude and their behaviors interfere with the teacher's ability to teach and children to learn.

Teachers in pioneer times were usually women who could not be married. They often lived with different families and their pay was usually low. Their lifestyle was limited to community standards, so teaching was a fully dedicated vocation.

Larsmont gives a totally awesome opportunity for children and teachers to go back in time to appreciate how difficult and yet valuable education has always been. America was founded as the land of opportunity. Education was the means by which children could work to make a better life for themselves in the future. Thanks, Larsmont Community, for giving us this fantastic opportunity to experience history.



Mary Ostazeski's 4th grade class from Rockridge/Lester Park School in Duluth attended a Pioneer School Day at the Larsmont School in the fall of 2008.



### Community Picnic & Reunion

Monday, August 29, 2011

5-7 p.m.

#### Our Famous Great Community Gathering

Remember the Date

Make Your Plans Now

This is our annual gathering of the community – a chance to meet your neighbors, catch up on old times, tour the Historic Red Schoolhouse, see (and use) the new biffy and have a Great Time. We really have fun!

#### A Special Time for a Special Neighborhood

If you're taking a vacation, it's the ideal time to come to the lake. If you live or just visit in Larsmont, take a couple of hours out from your hectic week and relax. Who can come? Everyone!

Monday will be a Great Day for the Get-together

#### Bring the Whole Family

\$6 per person, \$3 for children under 6 includes meal

Our picnic basket will contain a deli sandwich, salads and includes coffee, pop and iced tea.

Please help with dessert by bringing some Bars or Cookies

Sponsored by Larsmont Community Club

## Fun Time at the 2010 Picnic

Last year's Larsmont Picnic was held on August 30. A great time was had by all. On this page there are a few shots of the festivities. This year's picnic is August 29, beginning at 5 p.m.



## Larsmont Yesterday - a History

The following is an excerpt as written from the short history book *Larsmont Yesterday*, written by Oliver Isackson (1906-1970) and published in July 1980 by Irene Hill Norgard.

### The Earliest Days

The year was 1888, and on the rugged shores of Lake Superior at "Milepost 22" stood the first settlers of what was later to become known as Larsmont. The Thompson brothers - Theodore, Tollof and Louis - gazed out over the lake, no doubt with many thoughts of their native Norway. Suddenly from the east there appeared two canoes, being paddled by Indians and carrying rich furs on their way to the Trading Post in Duluth. This scene was to be repeated in the months to come, on the first "main highway" of the North Shore with the Chippewa making a return trip after about a week in Duluth. The Thompson brothers had come here with their oxen to clear a bit of land for a small farm, and later they became commercial fishermen, a career they pursued for many years.

In 1886, the Duluth & Iron Range (D.&I.R.) Railroad had been complete between Duluth and Two Harbors. Before this, there was a wagon trail just about where the old gravel road is in Larsmont, below the railroad tracks [County Road 101]. This trail was still in use in 1911. The railroad carried mail from Duluth to Two Harbors, and previous to that it was delivered by boat. John Bear Grease carried the mail from Two Harbors to Grand Marais from July 1895 to June 1897. He was an Ojibway-Chippewa Indian, born near Cass Lake in 1852. He died in 1910. The old paths found around here may be old Indian trails that date back 300 years. They were called corduroy paths because of the logs that were placed over the creeks.

In the late 1880s or early 1890s, the railroad paymaster came out to pay the men, using silver dollars. He was robbed here in Larsmont by two men, who ran up the hill with the money. They were later caught, but the money was never found. An early settler is thought to be a fur trapper, named Schmidt, who lived near the place where the Thompsons settled. It is believed that the maple trees in this area, that are still found in groves, were planted by the Indians for

maple syrup. In 1857, a Government survey of this area was made by a man named Burke. In 1913, a plat of this particular area was made by Frank Kempffer.

The old road was gravelled about 1913, and was called the Old North Shore Road. In 1914, a road was built to service the settlers on the hillside. It was built in sections, first to Peter Ericksons. This was the original Township Road and mention of it was made when the land was deeded to the school district. The new Highway 61 was built above the tracks in 1922 and was paved in 1928. The Expressway, which runs parallel to this, was begun in 1962 and was completed in 1965.

### Earliest Settlers

The early settlers of Larsmont were natives of Norway, Sweden and Finland. Their first homes on the lakeshore were roughly built shacks, and many were used later as fish shanties, when they were able to build larger houses. They cleared land, planted a garden, raised hay for a cow and owned some chickens. They built boats and made boat landings, and set out nets. A catch of 400 pounds of herring a day was not unusual, and the price of it was about 2¢ a pound. Some of this was shipped fresh, some salted and some frozen. This was picked up by boat or shipped by freight train. Later, others came and built homes across the railroad tracks on the hillside.

Early settlers - some single men, but mainly families - were:

- 1888 Thompson Brothers
- 1905 Gust Mattson
- 1908 Rainert Reinertsen
- 1909 Victor Sjoblom
- 1910 Charles Hill
- 1910 William Lounsberry
- 1911 John Strom
- 1911 John Sjoblom
- 1911 S. Skomars
- 1912 John Hendrickson
- 1912 Matt Strom
- 1912 Ingvald Jacobson
- 1913 Carl Lindwall
- 1913 John Nyquist
- 1914 Peter Erickson
- 1914 Andrew Barthell
- 1915 Peter Villa
- 1915 Olaf Nordquist

- 1915 John Coson
- 1915 John Jackson
- 1916 Herman Anderson
- 1916 William Hill
- 1917 Carl Wahlberg
- 1918 Eric Johnson
- 1919 Ole H. Isackson
- 1921 A.B. Oberg
- 1928 Albert Montague

Those were the days of kerosene lamps, keeping the woodbox filled, carrying water from the well and outdoor plumbing. Transportation was by boat, by foot (in the evening carrying a kerosene lantern), by horse and wagon, or by bicycle. Groceries were bought in large quantities, flour by the 100-pound sack and apples by the barrel. The neighbors helped each other with butchering and got meat from each other. Women borrowed each other's dress patterns and the men cut each other's hair. Whole families were involved with hay making, and many times the men carried such a large load of hay on their backs that only their legs showed as they walked.

Telephones were installed in 1915. Each home had its own ring, such as one long and two short, or a short, a long, a short ... and most everyone "listened in" at one time or another. Everyone in Larsmont was on the same party line until in the 1930s.

Electricity was brought into Larsmont in the 1930s. It was turned on for the first time on February 29, 1937, at 3 p.m.

The first baby born in Larsmont was Bertil Sjoblom in 1911.

According to a yellowed D.&I.R. Railway Company freight bill dated December 19, 1916, that was the day the William Hill family moved from Duluth to Larsmont with all their earthly possessions. In addition to the boxes, bundles and carts of household goods listed, there were such interesting items as: 1 cook stove, 1 velocipede, 1 sewing machine, 1 go-cart, 1 bundle stove pipes, two crates peaches and 1 cow! And the amount of freight paid? "Received \$3.19 in payment of the charges on the property described hereon." Today one could scarcely mail a small package for that amount!

*Project Day at the Schoolhouse - Volunteers Needed  
Saturday, August 13, 2011 - 9 a.m. - noon*

[www.larsmont.org](http://www.larsmont.org)

## Building Fund

In 2006, the Larsmont Community Club established the Building Maintenance Fund to accept donations from the members to be used toward repairs and upkeep of the building. To date, \$2,420 has been collected for the Fund.

Members who donate are recognized through small plaques displayed in the Schoolhouse.

So far in 2011, donations have been received from Terry & Kathleen Chmielewski, Pamela and David Coolidge and Cindy and Paul Hayden (in memory of Mille Miller).

You can send donations to the Secretary/Treasurer, Marlys Wisch, at 489 Swanson Rd., Larsmont, MN 55616.

## Larsmont Calendar

### August -

*Larsmont Schoolhouse Project Day*

August 13, 2011 - 9 a.m.

*Larsmont Schoolhouse Project Day*  
(Rain Date)

August 20, 2011

*Larsmont Community Club*  
*Annual Picnic*

August 29, 2011 - 5 - 7 p.m.

### September -

*Clay Workshop*

September 17 & 18, 2011

### October -

*Pioneer School Days*

## Craft Sale at School

The Craft Show signs came out for a special sale at the Little Red Schoolhouse on June 25, as the Agate Bay Crafters gathered to



display their wares. The day-long event proved to be a success for the crafters.

Use of the Schoolhouse comes at no cost

to members of the Larsmont Community Club who have paid their \$10 yearly dues. Members get one free use per year.

Earlier in the year, the Schoolhouse was used for a baby shower and also a neighborhood rummage sale. In September, another scheduled event will be the annual Clay Workshop, conducted by Helen Hartley.



One of the more interesting uses of the Schoolhouse each year is by regional schools who conduct Pioneer School classes during the spring. Teachers and students dress the role as they learn to appreciate the old building and the way classes used to be taught. Over the years, more than a dozen elementary schools have participated in the programs.

If you want to use the Schoolhouse for an event, contact Larsmont Community Club secretary Marlys Wisch at 218-834-5988 or by e-mail at [mwisch@lakenet.com](mailto:mwisch@lakenet.com).

## Letter to the Editor

*Received via e-mail at larsmont.org.*

Good Evening,

I recently obtained a copy of the book *Adventures of a Herring Choker* and in reading, discovered that my mother, Marlene Johnson Anderson, has some items that belonged to her grandfather, John Sjoblom, when he first came to the United States and settled in Duluth. Her mother, Ruth Sjoblom Johnson, gave these to her. He first found work as a shoemaker in Duluth and my mother has some of the equipment he used to make shoes, including a metal form and different sizes of metal feet and also a shoe shining wooden box with some of the brushes, etc., that were used.

We were thinking these would be very interesting to the people of Larsmont. Would the old schoolhouse be a place for items such as this? We were hoping these could be preserved in the Larsmont area since they're part of their heritage. Thank you for your assistance!

Kathy Anderson-Guzowski

*The LCC appreciates that you thought of the Schoolhouse as a repository for these items, but it is not a museum nor as secure. However, the Lake County Historical Society is interested in historic items such as these and has information on their website ([lakecountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://lakecountyhistoricalsociety.org)) on how to donate, either by deed of gift, deed of loan or unrestricted deed of gift. Others are encouraged to donate items from their private collection to preserve for the future. They would be on display at the Depot in Two Harbors.*

## Larsmont Community Club

701 Larsmont Road  
Larsmont, MN 55616



## Home of the Little Red Schoolhouse