

# THE LARSMONT LINE

Larsmont Community Club • Summer 2013



Home of the  
Little Red Schoolhouse  
Established 1914

If you are a resident  
of Larsmont,  
full time or visit part time,  
we invite you to get more  
involved in the  
community and meet  
your neighbors.  
Join the Larsmont  
Community Club for  
only \$10 per year.  
Paid members get  
one free use of the  
Little Red Schoolhouse  
during the year.

## Time for the Larsmont Annual Picnic



The annual Larsmont Community Picnic will be held again this year at the Larsmont Little Red Schoolhouse, August 19, beginning at 5 p.m.

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, full-time resident, part-time resident or visitor, is invited to the picnic. You don't have to be a member.

The event moved to Monday several years ago, and ever since attendance has improved and the weather seems to always be perfect, so the Larsmont picnic is THE one to attend.

Once again, the Larsmont Community Club will sponsor the event and provide food

and beverages for a flat fee of \$6 per adult and \$3 per child under 6.

Food is a combination of wraps, 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 wraps and salads will come from Louise's in Two Harbors.

No RSVP is needed, so 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.

Attendance averages 45-50. It would be great to meet more people! Put a mark on the calendar right now and join us on the 19th. Feel free to bring a friend.

## The Community Club Building Fund

The Larsmont Community Club Building Maintenance Fund was established in 2006 to assist in paying for upkeep and other challenges of keeping the historic Larsmont Schoolhouse up to snuff. Donations from the members of the Community Club and general community are placed in the fund.

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

So far in 2013, donations have been received from Helen & Bill Tranah, \$100;

Cindy & Paul Hayden, \$100; Ronald & Mary Holm, \$50; Wayne Johnson, \$40; Judy & Len Beardsley, \$25; Carol & Charles Gunder, \$25 and James Ortman, \$10.

Since the establishment of the Maintenance Fund, \$4,080 have been donated to the fund. Dollars in the fund are used toward acquisition of materials used for repairs of the building.

You can make donations specifically to the Building Fund through Secretary/Treasurer, Marlys Wisch, 489 Swanson Rd., Larsmont, MN 55616.

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

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

## 2013 Community Club Annual Meeting Minutes

### 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

The Larsmont Community Club held its annual meeting on May 7, 2013, at the Little Red Schoolhouse. The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by President Bill Tranah. The minutes of the 2012 meeting were read and approved, as was the financial report.

#### Old Business:

Report on the request for 2013 maintenance monies from the Recreation Board, we received \$2,200, not the \$2,400 we requested; Report on the 2012 annual picnic – 46 attended, good fellowship, good fun, good food.

Pres. Tranah reported on the projects that had been accomplished in 2012:

Completed: garage soffit, Bill Tranah; Front door painted, Kathy Falk; Back outside stairs painted, Margaret Glass; Not completed: replace glass in store room window, Bill Hermanson; Memorial garden developed, Marlys Wisch and Bev Erickson; General cleaning, Marlys Wisch and Cindy Hayden.

Report on New Projects monies for 2013. We received \$198.68 of unspent 2012 monies toward our \$500 request, will receive the \$301 when project (windows) is complete.

#### New Business:

Will have the D.A.C. mow our grass.

Discussed request amount for maintenance monies for 2014 from Recreation Board. We will ask for \$2,400.

Discussed New Projects monies for 2014.

Marlys will be getting a bid from Old World Windows, and Bill Tranah said his son will do the window project for \$1,000. When bid is received, Marlys will notify officers so a decision can be made on who to chose.

When asking for New Project monies, will also ask for any unspent monies of 2013.

Project Days – June 12 or July 10 as backup. Projects to be done: rotten boards on back outside stairs (Bill Tranah will check this out); bench needs refinishing (David Glass will do); Memorial garden (Marlys and her niece and nephew will work on that); paint one outside wall (many volunteers for one-half day); garage eaves (no volunteer at this time).

Annual picnic: Margaret Glass will get estimates for catering from local restaurants. The date will be August 19, 2013, 5 p.m.

Bev Erickson will be resigning as our delegate to the Lake County Recreation Board, effective December 31, 2013. Unanimous ballot to elect Marlys Wisch as our delegate.



President Bill Tranah and Secretary/Treasurer Marlys Wisch conduct the proceedings at the May 2013 Community Club Annual Meeting.

Medical stretcher: Marlys will check with Air Museum and with local museum/historical society to see who will take this. Motion approved to make a permanent loan of the stretcher to the Lake County Museum with our name shown as donor.

Dishes in cupboard: Marlys suggested that we get them appraised and sell them. Marlys to contact Pam Coolidge for an appraisal. Suggestions of Glensheen, restaurants, etc. for the dishes to be sold to.

Box of donated books: take what you want, rest will be given to the next rummage sale for that person(s) to make the sale.

Replacement flags have been ordered.

Paul Hayden brought up the fact that next year the school will be 100 years old, our centennial year, suggesting that we do a special event(s) to commemorate. Margaret Larson has a banner that reads "centennial" that she will loan to us. The committee to work on this will be: Bill Tranah, Marlys Wisch, Bev Erickson, David Glass, Margaret Glass, Cindy Hayden, Paul Hayden, Dale Isackson and Margaret Larson, plus anyone else who wishes to serve.

#### Election of Officers:

All current officers were willing to run again, M/S/C by unanimous ballot our officers are: President – Bill Tranah; Vice-President – Margaret Glass; Secretary/Treasurer – Marlys Wisch; Grounds Keeper – David Falk; Flag Tender – Dale Isackson; Editor-in-Chief – Paul Hayden.

Respectfully submitted: Marlys Wisch, Secretary/Treasurer.

The Medical stretcher that has been stored at the Little Red Schoolhouse has been donated to the Lake County Historical Society, which will display it with the Club's name showing as the donor.



### To Use the Little Red Schoolhouse

Contact Marlys Wisch

218-834-5988

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

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

## Schoolhouse Centennial Planned

In 1914, after years of teaching taking place in the homes of its residents, the community of Larsmont completed construction of its schoolhouse. The building was built by Hill & Strom, local constructors.

Although the Schoolhouse was only used for 18 years, the building still stands as testament to the quality of construction and the place that the building holds in the hearts of Larsmont citizens.

On July 18, 1993, the building was named as a National Historic Site.

With 2014 representing the centennial year of the Schoolhouse, the Larsmont Community Club voted at its annual meeting to organize a centennial celebration. Several at the annual meeting volunteered to serve on the committee, including Margaret Glass, Helen Hartley, Cindy & Paul Hayden, Dale Isackson, Margaret Larson, Bill Tranah and Marlys Wisch. The exact form of the celebration has yet to be decided, but the committee got off to a good start at its first meeting on July 7.

The Community Club has applied for a grant of \$500 from the Lake County Recreation Board to help with any costs associated with the celebration.

Among just some of the ideas floated at the first organizing meeting: creating a multi-day event coordinated with the annual club picnic in August, hold a parade in downtown Larsmont, have an art fair with a contest element for children, have a fabrics and quilt display and possible auction, emphasize the history of Larsmont through a series of Pioneer School Days during the summer.

Enough ideas were suggested to keep everyone busy the entire year. However, the group plans to reality check the list and lay out a plan in coming meetings.

The next meeting of the group will take place on August 7 at 6:30 p.m. at the Schoolhouse. There is an open invitation to anyone who would like to join the committee to help with the organization and operation of the plans. For more information, contact Marlys Wisch at 218-834-5988.



Members of the Larsmont Schoolhouse Centennial planning committee met on July 7 to discuss some of the options available to celebrate the anniversary. Additional members are welcome to help with the plans.



### Community Picnic & Reunion

Monday, August 19, 2013

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 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 variety of wraps, salads and includes coffee, pop and iced tea.

**Please help with dessert by bringing some Bars or Cookies**

**Sponsored by Larsmont Community Club**

# Larsmont Yesterday - a History [Pt. 3]

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)



*The following is the third 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. Part 1 was published in the Summer 2011 edition of The Larsmont Line and Part 2 was published in the Spring 2013 edition, available online at [www.Larsmont.org](http://www.Larsmont.org).*

## SCHOOLS

The first public school in Larsmont, District #4, was held in the Skomars home, a one-room house. The School Board consisted of John Marshall, Director; C.G. Reynolds, Clerk; and A. McPhee, Treasurer. The first school teacher was Miss Hildur Evelyn Anderson. The pupils were: First grade: Helmer Hill, Reuben Hill, Helen Sjoblom, Sylvia Sjoblom. Third grade: Hilma Fagerstrom, Birger Hill, Inez Hill, Ruth Sjoblom. Fifth Grade: Lydia Strom. This was the school term of 1912-1913.

The next school teacher was Miss Ruth Dahlberg, 1913-1914. This class consisted of Lydia Strom, Hilma Fagerstrom, Inez Hill, Ruth Sjoblom, Sylvia Sjoblom, Helen Sjoblom, Violet Sjoblom, Alice Hill, Margaret Hendrickson, Ralph Lindwall, Helmer Hill, Reuben Hill and Verner Hendrickson.

In the fall of 1914, the new schoolhouse had been completed, built by Hill & Strom. The children went to school here until the spring of 1932, when the school was closed.

Other teachers who taught in Larsmont were: Miss Blasing, Miss Hazel Barto, Miss MacDonald, Miss

Healey, Mrs. Ella Ohlund, Miss Virginia Lynch, Mr. Danielson, Miss Esther Anderson (1st), Miss Olga Johnson and Miss Esther Anderson (2nd). The teachers

boarded and roomed at various homes and often had to get to the schoolhouse early to build a fire in the stove. Mr. Hilding Peterson came out on the train and opened the school with a Bible reading.

In 1928, the 7th and 8th grades started going to Two Harbors. Some took the train. The first school bus in 1920 was an old wagon box mounted on an old Republic truck, which transported high school students to Two Harbors. It was called the



“Chicken Coop,” and Ray Pearson was the driver. Later they bought three White school buses. Before there were snow plows, they put two buses together with a plow in front and opened the roads. Charles Hill drove the school bus for Knife River students to the high school in Two Harbors.

## RELIGION

The Sunday School and religious services began in 1911 under the leadership of Victor Sjoblom and John Strom. The meetings were conducted in Swedish and were held in homes until 1914, when the schoolhouse was built. Victor Sjoblom was the first Sunday School superintendent, and the first Christmas program was held in 1912. This was held in the Skomars home, which was used as the schoolhouse. A string band was formed, led by Charles Hill, and they sang and played at the meetings. The Sunday School programs were well attended – it was the highlight of the year. All the social activities centered around the church – the Fourth of July picnics (often held in Stroms’ cow pasture, which was centrally located) and Thanksgiving suppers.

Bible School was held each summer. Some of the teachers were: Hulda Sundell, Herman Myhrman, Minnie Nelson and Rev. Bert Stanway of the American Sunday School Union, under whom the following teachers came to serve: Helen Winegar, Ella Hoskins, Fred Weller, Burton Francis, Norman Craft and others. Also, Rev. & Mrs. Sloan were residents of Larsmont for a time.

The schoolhouse was sold to the community to be used as a Community Church in June of 1934 for \$200. The organizational meeting was held July 1934. Ministers of all faiths were invited to preach at the Larsmont Gospel Mission.

Barber Monahan from Duluth cut the kids’ hair down at the old railroad station, played the violin and preached. Oscar “Fruddy Lapp” Larson was called that (Frozen Lapp) because the first thing he did when he entered the Mission was to throw his long, wool scarf around his neck, clear his throat, then walk around and close all the doors and windows. He loves to strum his guitar, and sang in a very unique manner – his favorite being “He the Pearly Gates Will Open.”

Andrew Bloomquist always wanted coffee at each home he visited, and often his first words upon entering a home were, “Halleluja! Har du kaffe panna på?” (Have you got the coffee pot on?). He always

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

seemed to wear squeaky shoes. His favorite sermon was about the Prodigal Son.

Most of the early settlers of Larsmont were of Baptist background. Some of the early visiting missionaries and pastors were: Victor Carlson, John Fuhr, Fred Johnson, Albert and John Moseid, Elmer Erickson, Alfred Thoren, Albert Esselstrom, Herman and Andrew Myhrman, C.E. Oberg, A.J. Stormans, Linus Johnson, William Turnwall and others.

On December 1, 1939, a young seminary student, J. Stanley Rendahl, spoke at the Mission. He subsequently became a Chaplain in the U.S. Army and also pastored many churches throughout the United States. Little did this writer dream as a teenager – when hearing him speak at the Larsmont Gospel Mission – that she would become his secretary some 37 years later when he pastored a church in Duluth.

A Ladies Aid was formed and met once a month in the homes.

Several Larsmont residents went into missionary work: Margaret Hendrickson Whittaker to Africa and the Canary Islands; Inga Sannes, Africa; Florence Isackson Kertzcher, Canary Islands; Jennie Strom Erickson, England and Czechoslovakia; Helen Sjoblom Ohlin, pastor's wife; and Alva Johnson Bachtell, pastor's wife.

A number of the 2nd and 3rd generation are continuing in the faith of their forefathers and are actively engaged in Christian work. Among those are: Robert Hill, son of the Helmer Hills, after graduation from Bethel Seminary, held a pastorate in California. Joan Hendrickson Olson, daughter of the Van Hendricksons, with her husband was for several years with Missionary Aviation Fellowship in South America, Ethiopia and Alaska. John Sjoblom, son of the Philip Sjobloms, graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College and N.W.

Theological Seminary, is now holding a pastorate. Catherine Evenson King and Frances Evenson Hammack, both daughters of Elsie Strom Evenson, are pastors' wives. Susan Hendrickson, daughter of the Gust Hendricksons, worked with Wycliffe Bible Translators in South America, and with the Baptist General Conference in Mexico.

After the advent of automobiles, people traveled to Duluth and Two Harbors to

attend church, and services are no longer held in Larsmont.



## MUSIC

Music was an important part of Larsmont throughout the early years. A string band was organized and conducted by Charles Hill around 1913. They sang and played at the religious services.

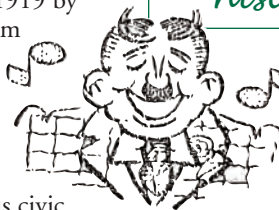
A Mandolin Club was formed in 1919 by Mr. Arneson, a music shop owner from Two Harbors, and they played for many functions, including basketball games.

Early in the 1930s a group of young men began harmonizing and shortly were invited to sing for various civic and religious functions around this area. They became known as Larsmont's "Singing Fishermen" and sang together for nearly a decade. The original octet was composed of: Arne Johnson, director, Roger Johnson, Van Hendrickson, David Anderson, Roland Hill, Ollie Isackson, Bert Sjoblom and Lester Sjoblom.

Through the years, others joined the group and sang with them from time to time: Helmer Hill, Reuben Hill, Ralph Hendrickson, Eric Sjoblom, Philip Sjoblom, Ben Sjoblom, Edwin Sjoblom, Marvin Erickson, Bob Meyers, Walter Barthell and Milton Barthell.

In 1937, they made their radio debut and were heard a number of times on WEBC, Duluth, and WMFG, Hibbing. Their theme song "Sailing, Sailing" became well known. Some of their favorite numbers were: "Hear Dem Bells," "Church In the Wildwood," "My Anchor Holds," "Long, Long Ago," "Grandfather's Clock," "Quilting Party," "Home on the Range," "Silver Threads Among the Gold," "I Was Seeing Nellie Home" and "When It's Lamp Lighting Time in the Valley." We were sorry when the "Singing Fishermen" were no longer singing for us.

In about 1961 or 1962, "Ollie's Sing-along" was organized.



Go to  
[www.Larsmont.org](http://www.Larsmont.org)  
for parts One and  
Two of this short  
history book.

The Singing Fishermen of Larsmont, Minnesota. Personnel: Director E. Arne Johnson, Bert J. Sjoblom, Lester J. Sjoblom, David H. Anderson, Roger R. Johnson, John Roland Hill, H. Oliver Isackson, J. Verner Hendrickson. Illustration by Vera Hill Isackson, Larsmont Community Club archives.



## *Jolly Painters take care of the Schoolhouse*

### *Larsmont Calendar*

#### **August -**

*Schoolhouse Centennial Committee*

Volunteers Welcome  
August 7 – 6:30 p.m.

*Larsmont Community Club*  
*Annual Picnic*

August 19 – 5-7 p.m.

#### **September -**

*Pioneer School Days*

Dates to be determined

*Rummage Sale*

September 14-15

*20/20 Art Show*

September 20-22, 27-29

#### **October -**

*Pioneer School Days*

Dates to be determined

*Art Fair*

October 18-20

Once again there's a fresh coat of red paint on the Larsmont Schoolhouse. Well, on one side, at least. The annual Painting Party was held on June 12 with volunteers painting the

west side of the building. Each year one side is painted, keeping the color bright and, well, Red. Pictured here are just a few of this year's happy painters and valued volunteers.



The volunteer painting group took aim at one side of the Larsmont Schoolhouse on June 12. Clockwise from upper left: Bill Tranah and Marlys Wisch; (right) Dale Burton; (lower right) David Glass (on ladder), Helen Hartley and Dale Burton; (lower left) Helen Hartley. Other volunteer, not shown, Jim Ortman. Photos by David Glass.

### *Larsmont Community Club*

701 Larsmont Road  
Larsmont, MN 55616



## *Home of the Little Red Schoolhouse*