

THE LARSMONT LINE

Larsmont Community Club • Spring 2014



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.

It's Time for the Annual Meeting



The annual meeting of the Larsmont Community Club/Volunteer Fire Department will be held **Tuesday, May 20 at the hall at 7 p.m.** Since this is a Community Club, all residents of the Larsmont community are invited to be members of the club, whether you live here full time or only part of the year. We'd appreciate your participation to help us maintain your building and grounds, so please come and give us your ideas and suggestions as to what you would like to see happen this year with your club/property. The meeting should last less than an hour.

At our meeting, we will continue to plan the summer-long Schoolhouse Centennial, plus review details for the ice cream social in

August. We would appreciate everyone's ideas and suggestions.

We wish to thank each of you who has paid your voluntary \$10 per household membership dues to help our Community Club. As you probably know, these annual dues allow you to use the Hall once a year for a function. We use the dues to pay insurance, electricity, gas, grass cutting, postage and miscellaneous repairs. Of course, an additional donation is always appreciated, especially for the Building Fund.

Please use the enclosed label for an envelope and mail your membership dues and comments or suggestions if you will be unable to attend this meeting. Hope to see you at the meeting.

Celebrate the Schoolhouse Centennial

Our Larsmont Community Club Centennial committee was established at the May 2013 annual meeting when one member, Paul Hayden, reminded us that 2014 would be the 100th birthday of the schoolhouse.

We became a committee of the whole with all attending the meeting becoming members: Bill Tranah, Marlys Wisch, Margaret Glass, Helen Hartley, Dale Isackson, Margaret Larson and Paul Hayden. Kathy and David Falk, Bill Miller and Bonnie Phipps have been added to the committee.

We have had great ideas from neighbor Brad Nelson and Mel Sando, Lake County Historical Society. The Society has become our fiscal agent for funding this year's events.

Many have brought interesting suggestions

to the table, from grand to simple, all with a theme of the early days of the school.

We are planning a summer of regular activities at the school, with rummage sales, Pioneer School Days and 20/20 Art Show. See the calendar on page 4 for details.

The highlight will be our Centennial celebration August 23-24, with arts and crafts demos and ice cream social over two days with vendors, food and ice cream, of course. Optional dress will be the costume of the day (1914-1925'ish). Catch the Scenic Train from Duluth! Get off at the Larsmont Depot spot and get shuttled to the school for the two days of activities.

Complete details will be available in the July issue of *The Larsmont Line*.

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

www.Larsmont.org

Larsmont Yesterday - a History [Pt. 4]

Visit the
Community
Website at:

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

Larsmont on TV

On February 26, 2014, Marlys Wisch talked with FOX 21 News, KQDS-DT's Dana Thayer about Larsmont and the historic Larsmont Schoolhouse. To see the story, go to <http://www.fox21online.com/news/feature/northland-uncovered/larsmont-school-uncovered>.

Larsmont Community Club

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The following is the fourth excerpt as written and illustrated 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, Part 2 was published in the Spring 2013 edition and Part 3 was published in the Summer 2013 edition, available online at www.Larsmont.org.

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

The Larsmont Farmers Club was the earliest club in Larsmont. It was organized in 1928 by the County Agent, Mr. Ayers. A 4-H Club was active as early as 1935. The Larsmont Community Club was organized on January 27, 1938, with about 40 members for the purpose of furthering the social, education and recreational interests of the community. They built a toboggan slide, which was completed on February 1, 1938, and was the longest and fastest slide for miles around. The club bought several toboggans for use by all in the community; they had a basketball team and archery club, and put on programs using local talents. They also were instrumental in getting some roads built, and getting homes wired for electricity.

The Larsmont-Knife River Conservation Club was active in 1935. They started the harbor in Knife River. In 1939, they were co-sponsors with the Duluth Chamber of Commerce of fishing contests held on Lake Superior.

In 1953, the Larsmont Volunteer Fire Department was organized. The Ladies Auxiliary of the Larsmont Fire Department was organized on May 18, 1961. They have sponsored supper, Christmas bazaars and rummage and bake sales to raise money for the maintenance of the Volunteer Fire Department.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

The Larsmont area was richly blessed with woods, which abounded with deer, rabbits, partridge and even prairie chickens. The latter vanished from the scene in the late twenties. Attempts were made by the Minnesota Conservation Department to introduce pheasants and Hungarian partridge. These two game species did not "take," however, and have not been seen in our area since the early forties. Moose, while they are not abundant, are in evidence occasionally. Wolves and coyotes are no longer heard howling in the distance. Bears

are sometimes seen. So it was natural for those with the hunting instinct to pursue whatever games was in season. White tailed deer are our most important big game animal. As the November season approached, all the hunters got the "fever" and prayed for tracking snow. Many built hunting cabins or shacks in the backwoods where parties of from two to a dozen or more hunters spent the entire hunting season.

A log cabin was built in the 1920s on the bank of the Knife River, in prime deer country about a mile north of Larsmont. It was quite presentable, too (as hunting cabins go), considering that it was built by teenagers. It was used as a base for hunting forays for several years. Finally, a disgruntled neighbor from the territory across the river burned it down.



Later, during the Depression years, another cabin was built in the Big Noise country, which is about 20 miles inland from Larsmont. From this camp deer were hunted for many years. One season in particular, hunting was done up there in knee-deep snow in 25-degrees-below-zero weather! Here a hunting technique was developed whereby eight hunters hunted upwind, strictly abreast of each other, about 50 yards apart, walking very slowly and quietly, maintaining the same pace in order to insure a straight line. Invariably, when hunting upwind like this and jumping a deer without getting a shot,



the deer will circle to get downwind of you, and the venison will be bagged by one in the party. The key in this technique is to keep the man on your right and on your left within sight and not break formation.

There were berry-picking expeditions, canoe trips to the border lakes on the "Ely Highball," trolling on Lake Superior, beach parties and weiner roasts with bonfires all along the shore, sliding and bobsledding parties and skating parties on the lake.

There was softball – Bob Meyers was hired by the county as recreational director. Basketball was played in conjunction with the Community Club, under the direction of Reuben Hill. Larsmont had some good hockey players – Roger Johnson and Lester Sjoblom played with the Two Harbors team.



In the earliest days, "sports" was confined to playing games in the field at the 4th of July picnic, such as "Three Deep," "Last Couple Out," "Jacob, Where Are You?," "Kick the Stick," "Duck on the Rock," "Cricket" and so forth.



And swimming – who can forget the "'01 Swimming Hole" up in Knife River back of

Larsmont – and that long trek up the hill, through Wahlbergs' back yard, past the cliff, over Brinker's clearing (stopping to pick wild strawberries in season), then the narrow, winding trail through woods, over a fallen tree or two – and finally, our goal!

How refreshing was that dip in the river, after such a long hike.

We would often swim in the lake, too, especially in late summer when the water



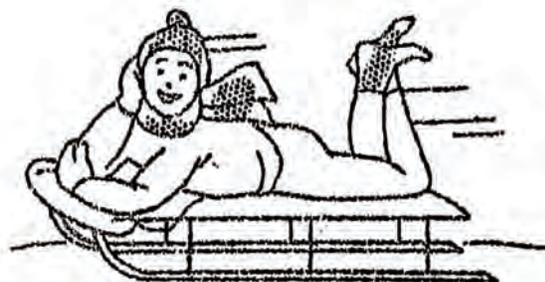
wasn't so icy cold. Our favorite swimming beach seemed to be John Sjoblom's, and the bravest would dive from the diving board out on the rocky point.

Often the most exciting thing to happen in the day of a Larsmont youngster was to put a small nail on the railroad track, to be flattened by a train. Or, if we felt rich, we'd place a penny there – but not too often, for a penny would buy quite a bit of candy in those days.

On warm summer evenings, the kids would gather for a game of baseball or commodore in the field behind the schoolhouse – or choose any one of our favorite games: "Hide & Seek," "Annie-Annie-I-Over," "Rin Tin Tin," "Squash," "Pump-Pump-Pull-Away" and so forth.



No doubt over the years most of us have forgotten the rules of such games, but fun we had.



Go to
www.Larsmont.org
 for parts One
 through Three of
 this short history
 book by Irene Hill
 Norgard.

Help Celebrate our Centennial Year

Larsmont Calendar

May -

Pioneer School Day

May 16 – 9 a.m. Schoolhouse

Larsmont Community Club

Annual Meeting

May 20 – 7 p.m. Schoolhouse

Pioneer School Day

May 29 – 9 a.m. Schoolhouse

McCormick Rummage Sale

May 31-June 1 Schoolhouse

June -

Isackson/Schleeter Rummage Sale

June 23-29 Schoolhouse

July -

Crassweller Rummage Sale

July 4-6 Schoolhouse

Erickson Rummage Sale

July 4-6 Schoolhouse

Two Harbors Heritage Days Parade

July 12 – 1 p.m. Downtown

Two Harbors

August -

*Larsmont Schoolhouse Centennial
Celebration Weekend*

August 23-24 Schoolhouse

(More Details on Website)

September -

20/20 Art Show

Sept. 19-21 Schoolhouse

20/20 Art Show

Sept. 26-28 Schoolhouse

November -

Election Day – Polling Place

Nov. 4 Schoolhouse

Got a Talent to Show Off?

Want to Demonstrate Your Product?

Need a Hall for your Art Show or Yard Sale?

We've got just the place for you

**Use the Larsmont Schoolhouse
for your event
during its Centennial Year**

Book your event at the Schoolhouse from May through September and help fill out the Centennial Year's Calendar. The sooner you book, the sooner you get on the calendar.

The Annual Picnic and Centennial Celebration will be August 23-24. Other weekends and weekdays are available – first come, first served.

The Larsmont Community Club will help publicize your event on site and on the Larsmont.org website.

Your \$10 annual Community Club membership allows you one Free use of the Schoolhouse each year.

Contact Marlys Wisch to book your event.

**We also invite you to volunteer to help with the
Centennial activities.**

218-834-5988, mwisch@frontier.com

*Larsmont
Community Club*

701 Larsmont Road

Larsmont, MN 55616



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