

THE LARSMONT LINE

Larsmont Community Club • Early Summer 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.



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

www.Larsmont.org

Design a Butterfly Garden - July 26



Many North Shore residents consider gardening a myth. But in reality, even with narrow windows of growing opportunities, there are many ways to have a successful garden and reap the rewards it brings. One of those ways is to pick a specific species of visitor and design the garden just for them.

Pat Thomas knows all about that, and manages to create some spectacular butterfly gardens. In fact, she'll be sharing her knowledge on July 26 at a special class in the Larsmont Schoolhouse from 10 a.m. to noon.

"Your yard and gardens can be havens for butterflies," she says. "This class will teach you how to create and manage butterfly habitat right in your back yard. You will learn about the butterfly life cycle, the best plants for these beautiful insects and other ways to provide for butterflies."

Although the class is open to anyone who walks through the door on July 26, preregistration is appreciated in order to have proper materials on hand. "There are no limits on enrollment," she says, "but it would be nice to know the number of people who plan on attending since I will have handouts."

The cost of the class is \$5, which will be donated to the Xerces Society, an invertebrate conservation group. People can email Pat at 55path57@gmail.com then can pay on the day of the class. "If folks do not have email, they can simply come that day."

Pat's yard is certified with the National Wildlife Federation, The North American Butterfly Association, the Xerces Society and is registered as a Monarch Way Station. The butterfly class is one element of the year-long Schoolhouse Centennial Celebration.

Centennial Celebration - August 23-24

The highlight of the Larsmont Schoolhouse Centennial celebration this year will be a weekend filled with arts and crafts, performances, demonstrations, food and ice cream. The Schoolhouse Centennial committee has designated August 23-24 as a two-day "throwback" weekend (1914-1925'ish dress will be optional).

First, you'll want your friends to arrive in style. Arrangements have been made with the North Shore Scenic Railroad to make a special stop in Larsmont at the site of the old train depot. Go to the Calendar at

Larsmont.org to find links for rides on August 23 and August 24. Ride to the Schoolhouse from the train aboard a horse and buggy. Or, stroll to the school grounds.

Both days will be filled with musical performances by area groups. Vendor tents will provide insight into period merchandise.

Paul von Goertz of Knife River plans to perform a reenactment with old "veterans," who will talk about the Civil War and Minnesota's involvement in it.

And, there will be more. Now's the time to put this weekend on your family's calendar.

Rummage Sale City, U.S.A.

One of the benefits of membership in the Larsmont Community Club is the free use of the Larsmont Schoolhouse building once a year. Many Larsmont residents and visitors take advantage of that benefit by holding rummage sales. In fact, it's become enough of a practice that we're beginning to call Larsmont Rummage Sale City.

When you think of it, using the Schoolhouse makes perfect sense. It's a beautiful, well-maintained building, plus you have the

advantage of a protected display area, and also the expandability to the surrounding grounds.

This summer, rummage sales are already scheduled for June 27-29 (Isackson/Schleeter), July 4-6 (Crassweller) and July 11-13 (Erickson). Some families, like the Isacksons and Schleeters, work together to make the events even more of a success.

The rummage sales are elements of the year-long Schoolhouse Centennial Celebration.

Larsmont Community Club

701 Larsmont Road
Larsmont, MN 55616

President

Bill Tranah

Vice President

Margaret Glass

Secretary/Treasurer

Marlys Wisch
218-834-5988
mwisch@frontier.com

Building/Grounds

David Falk

Flag Tender

Dale Isackson

Newsletter Editor

Paul L. Hayden

2014 Community Club Annual Meeting Minutes

The Larsmont Community Club held its annual meeting on May 20, 2014, at the Little Red Schoolhouse. The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by President Bill Tranah. The minutes of the 2013 meeting were read and approved, as was the financial report.

Old Business: Report on the requests for monies for 2014: will receive \$2,400 in maintenance monies from the Recreation Board; \$4,050 in new project monies.

Pres. Tranah reported on the projects that had been accomplished in 2014: Completed: new windows installed by Old World Windows (large schoolroom windows); volunteers painted the north wall of the building and the garage gable. July 25, 2014 (8 a.m. start) will be designated Paint Day, where we will paint the west wall, and also work on the side porch.

New Business: Will have the D.A.C. mow our grass. Discussed request amount for maintenance monies for 2015 from Recreation Board. We will ask for \$2,600, and \$4,950 in new project monies.

A report was made on Centennial activities: Pioneer School Days, Rummage Sales, Church service on Saturday evening, August 23, vendors with jewelry, photos, food,



President Bill Tranah watches as Secretary/Treasurer Marlys Wisch explains a concept at the May 2014 Community Club Annual Meeting.

ice cream, antiques, rubber stamps, pony rides and more to be determined. Demonstrations on quilting and knitting. The Scenic Train will stop in Larsmont at the old depot location.

Possible horse-drawn carriage.

Jim Rippberger is building a case to house historical items in the schoolhouse.

We will have a float in the Heritage Day parade in Two Harbors with a Centennial theme, including

school kids. We will foster a coloring contest and puzzle in the newspapers. A Centennial flag will be flown under the American Flag.

Election of Officers: All current officers were willing to run again, M/S/C by unanimous ballot.

Respectfully submitted: Marlys Wisch, Secretary/Treasurer.

The Community Club 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. Members who donate are recognized through small certificates displayed in the Schoolhouse.

So far in 2014, donations have been

received from Wayne Johnson, James Ortman, Karen and Steven Smith, Paul and Cindy Hayden, Judy and Len Beardsley and Charles and Carol Gunder.

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

Special Note About Dues

Due to a recent error at the Post Office, a number of mailed dues payments to Marlys were returned to the sender. If you had your dues returned, please resend them to her at 489 Swanson Rd., Two Harbors, MN 55616, and they will get there this time. Thanks.

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 Yesterday - a History [Pt. 5]

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, Part 3 in the Summer 2013 edition and Part 4 in the Spring 2014 edition, all available online at www.Larsmont.org.

MISCELLANEOUS

The early days were not without tragedies, as well as many happy occasions, of course. The first known casualty was the death of the father of the Thompson brothers, who was killed on the railroad crossing at the site of the depot. In 1909, a forest fire raged all along the lakeshore. During the summer 1911, Victor Sjoblom lost two cows that had wandered onto the railroad track and were struck by the train. This was a great loss to them.

On April 29, 1914, Esther Strom, aged 18, died in a Duluth hospital following surgery, and was buried in Duluth. On October 29, 1915, the post office in the John Strom home was robbed while everyone was attending a meeting at the schoolhouse. On March 17, 1918, little Ina Linnes Hendrickson, 1½ years old, drowned in their well. The funeral was held in the schoolhouse. On January 26, 1919, two-month-old Victor Daniel Sjoblom died, and the funeral was held at the schoolhouse.

In February of 1918, the Carl Wahlberg home was burned to the ground in a snow storm.

October 12, 1918, was the great forest fire, when those living on the hillside took refuge in the homes along the shore. The only place it crossed the tracks was at the Hickox place, which was burned down. Peter Villa sat smoking his pipe on a haystack while watching his house burn down! Six cars of Home Guards from Two Harbors came to help in fighting the fire. The last forest fire in this area was in April 1953, and it was then that the Larsmont Volunteer Fire Department was organized.

On June 7, 1919, Andrew Barthell went to Duluth and died while walking on the sidewalk. His funeral service was held at the schoolhouse.

Once some Larsmont fishermen were trapped on the ice and were rescued by the tug *Edna G.* of Two Harbors.

In 1919, the schoolhouse was closed from November 20 to December 15 because of the Spanish Flue, which had invaded every home. Out of a population of 104 persons, 56 were bedridden. Fortunately there were no deaths. At that time, Jennie Strom, who later became a foreign missionary, went from home to home caring for the sick. Later on, the community gave her a surprise party to show their appreciation. They had collected \$18. Mrs. Peter Erickson also carried soup to the sick and milked their cows.

One day in the early '20s, little George Wahlberg, age 5, decided he was going to help his father out in the potato field, some distance from the house, and so informed his mother. Somewhere along the way he took a wrong turn and ended up in the woods. After several hours, his parents discovered he was missing and sounded the alarm. Men from Larsmont as well as Two Harbors came to help in the search. In the meantime, George had walked for several miles, crossed the Knife River (fortunately it was very low at the time) and ended up at a strange house. The lady tried to find out who this little boy was, even coaxed him with candy, but since George could only speak Swedish yet, and the lady only spoke English, she got nowhere with him. The story had a happy ending, however. Later that day the searchers found George and reunited him with his parents. The only thing that impressed him was the bag of candy the nice lady had given him!

Other tragedies occurred in later years. Arvid Johnson was accidentally killed near Two Harbors in 1927. Helmer Hill died of diabetes in 1931 at the age of 15. Edwin Evenson, husband of Elsie Strom, was struck by a train while crossing the tracks in a truck, in 1932, and was instantly killed. Roger Johnson died of tularemia in 1932. Harry Hill, 19, died of injuries sustained in an auto accident on the highway near Larsmont in January 1940. Glen, the young son of the Elof Andersons, was struck and killed by a car while riding his bike on the highway near their home, in 1953. One of our very first settlers, Louis Thompson, died

Continued Page 4

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 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.**

**218-834-5988
mwisch@frontier.com**

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

www.larsmont.org

Larsmont Calendar

June -

Isackson/Schleeter Rummage Sale
June 27-29 Schoolhouse

July -

Crassweller Rummage Sale
July 4-6 Schoolhouse

Erickson Rummage Sale
July 11-13 Schoolhouse

Two Harbors Heritage Days Parade
July 12 – 1 p.m.
Downtown Two Harbors

Larsmont Painting Day
July 25 – 8-11 a.m.
Schoolhouse

*Building a Butterfly Garden
with Pat Thomas*
July 26 – 10 a.m. Schoolhouse

August -

*Larsmont Schoolhouse Centennial
Celebration Weekend*
August 23-24 Schoolhouse
(More Details on Website,
including links to North Shore
Scenic Railroad ticketing)

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

Updates at Larsmont.org

Larsmont Yesterday - a History [Cont.]

Continued from Page 3

on February 17, 1939. Several of our Larsmont youths died in the prime of life, either accidentally or from illness: John Coson, Dick Nyquist, Wilbert Wahlberg, Clifford Wahlberg and Edwin Sjoblom.

On the other hand, a number of our residents lived to be more than 90 years of age: John Nyquist, Eric Johnson and Albert Montague all reached the age of 92; Barbara Lounsberry died at 97 and Ole H. Isackson was 98.

Among the happier occasions were: A surprise party given for Mr. and Mrs. John Strom to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary on April 22, 1914; and a party given in the schoolhouse honoring Theodore Thompson on his 75th birthday, February 21, 1938.

Among the early home weddings in Larsmont were: Oliver and Vera (Hill) Isackson, 1927; Peter and Helen (Sjoblom) Ohlin; Charles and Margaret (Hendrickson) Whittaker, 1930. There were two weddings in the schoolhouse: William and Evodea (Barthell) Matas, and Magnus and Henrietta Jensen.

We eagerly looked forward to each wedding in Larsmont, for that meant a shivaree! No doubt more than one cow had to surrender her bell for an evening every

now and then, and mothers lost their pots and pans for a while, too. Some newlyweds really made us work for our "reward," and the shivaree went on and on until they gave us some money. Then we'd buy ice cream and goodies, and go to someone's home to celebrate. The last shivaree in Larsmont was held in the early 1940s.

Other items of interest: Saxoni Erickson was born on a ship in mid-ocean, coming from Sweden in 1905. The name of the ship was *Saxonia*, from which he got his name.

In 1943, the Albert Montagues had a dog, part police and Great Dane, who was accepted for duty in the K-9 Corps and was awaiting shipping orders.

In 1933, David Anderson, one of the "Singing Fishermen," had a close call when his boat tipped over in the lake. He shouted to comrades Ragnvald Sannes and Helmer Hill, who eventually came to his aid. They were so far away that they thought it was a loon calling, but after a few minutes they realized that it was David.

Several celebrities have stayed in the cabins in Larsmont in years past, such as country-western singer Jeanie Seeley, the Everly Brothers and Patty Berg. 

The final installment of this history of Larsmont will appear in the July issue of The Larsmont Line.

*Help Celebrate our Centennial Year
Attend events at the Schoolhouse*

Larsmont Community Club

701 Larsmont Road
Larsmont, MN 55616



Home of the Little Red Schoolhouse