

The Rochester Era

Painting the Elevator!

Saturday, June 6 was bright and sunny. Community and Society members came to the Elevator painting full of enthusiasm and curiosity. A wonderful time was had by all and the painting has been finished. The entire building was cleaned, primed and painted except for the area from the ground up to a 10 foot line, by our partners CertaPro Painters. Our volunteer painters finished the job and Articulate Signs have finished the logo on the North-ish side of the building. The President's article on Page 3 gives more details.



Before: the awning looks really sad.



Shoulder to shoulder on the job



A whole new building!



The well dressed painting CEO!

Gallons Used on the Elevator.

Primer:	50 Gallons
Barn Red and White Paint:	105 Gallons
Roof Paint:	<u>25 Gallons</u>
	180 Total Gallons

Annual Meeting/Picnic a big success!

Members selected by the Board of Directors honored for their service to the Society.



Jo Ann Bourez was a co-winner of the Lois Collet Award for Outstanding Board Member. Jo Ann serves as Program Chairperson plus helping on many other projects.



Brian Dunphy was also a co-winner of the Lois Colette Board Member Award. Brian serves as Vice-President of RAHS and helps on numerous projects.



Deborah Larson receives the Mary Eberline Award for Outstanding Member. Deborah authored our new book *Hometown Rochester* and has contributed many hours of research, has indexed two scrapbooks of obituaries and has helped on other projects.

Colleen Barkham and Penny Reddish were both selected to receive the Gail Kemler Award For Outstanding First Year Member. Both women helped on numerous projects and made a very positive impact on our organization. (No photos are available of them receiving these awards.)



Mark Your Calendar - Plan Ahead for Fall

Brown Bag Lunch—Sept. 1, Noon—1:00, Community House
General Meeting—Sept. 3, 7:00 PM—Rochester Centennial Revisited, Rochester Hills Public Library

2009 Sidewalk Sale

There is still time to help at the sale!
 It is always an enjoyable experience - selling Cat's Meow buildings, our books, our postcards and anything else to raise funds for the organization.

Dates: July 16—18.

Contact James Hopkins to volunteer!
 248.352.6782
 nark1non@gmail.com

Thursday July 16 : 3:30 PM — 6:00 PM (2 slots)
 Friday July 17 : 1:00 PM—3:30, 3:30—6:00 (2 each)
 Saturday July 18 : 10 AM—1:00 (1 slot)
 1:00—3:30 PM (2 slots)

OFFICERS	
President.....	Rod Wilson 248.651.6178
Vice-President.....	Brian Dunphy 248.656.5968
Treasurer.....	Mary Howarth 248.375.0206
Recording Secretary.....	June Hopaluk 248-652-9242
Corresponding Secretary.....	Janet Potton 248.652.7296
Member-at-Large.....	Susan Hofh 248.852.9015
Member-at-Large.....	James Hopkins 248.342.6782
Past President.....	Greg Doyle 248.651.6076

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS	
Historian.....	Gail Kemler 248.651.0907
Membership.....	Carole Fischer 248.853.0118
ERA.....	Mary Howarth 248.375.0206
Program.....	JoAnn Bourez 248.651.7526
Publicity.....	Liz Golding 248.656.1125



***From the
President...
Rod Wilson***

Make the Elevator Shine

The old Elevator now stands proudly. What an incredible sight on Saturday morning: young and old, standing shoulder to shoulder across the front of the Elevator with paint brushes in hand, putting on a coat of paint. And others waiting for a paint brush to be available. The morning went by so fast. So many people helping to *Make The Elevator Shine*. We had just under 100 people from the community helping to paint. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this project such a success.

RAHS members who served on the committee and spent many hours attending bi-weekly meetings and taking care of some aspect of the project: Barbara Bates, Jo Ann Bourez, Greg Doyle, Brian Dunphy, John Dziurman, Liz Golding, June Hopaluk, James Hopkins, Bill Pietrzyk, Penny Reddish, Steve Sage, Richard Stamps, and Susan Wilson. The following non-members also served on the committee: Merlin Bush, Ryan Dillon, Todd Greenbaum and Jeff Young. This was an outstanding committee with everyone taking on some responsibility and then following through to make sure their area was complete. They always were working together and when a new requirement came up someone would volunteer to take care of it.

Thank you to the following: The CertaPro Painters who did a fantastic job. Owner Merlin Bush was at all our meetings and

was at the Elevator daily making sure everything was going okay. His painting crew was magnificent. Merlin's charge for the painting was about one half of what anyone would have had to pay to have this work done. Sherwin-Williams Paint worked with Merlin on paint price and donated brushes and rollers. Jeff Young, who owns Articulate Signs, painted the signage on the end of the Elevator. He also charged us less than half of what it would normally cost to have that sign painted. Crittenton Hospital donated wrist bands for those who registered to paint. Mike Gendich, who owns the mobile food vehicle that the Lions Club use, brought that vehicle and served the hot dogs and drinks from it. The Rochester Fire Department brought their grill and the Fire Chief John Cieslik and Mark Woliung grilled the hot dogs. Over 280 hot dogs were served that day. Thanks also go to John Bonetti, manager of Gordon Food Service who donated the hot dogs, buns and water. To Rochester Rental for donating the use of two ten-by-ten foot pop up tents. Todd Greenbaum arranged for groups to perform during the day and what a great response we had. Special appreciation to Jeff Young's wife for her beautiful voice and the music she has written. And to Lawrence Smith, his wife Vi, and sons, daughter and grandchildren for all their help. We cannot forget the men that work for Lawrence Smith at the Elevator and all their help to make this a success.

It was an incredible project, an incredible day, an incredible committee. All I can say is thank you for a job well done.

Club Year 2009-2010

We are off and running on a new year with new projects and continuation of many other important projects. Once again, people stepping forward to make **President** continued on Page 4

President continued from Page 3

Our organization a success. Please take time to read the planned year for 2009-2010. Give me a call if you want to help on one of the projects. There are a lot of different opportunities and hopefully you will find one that hits your hot button. Or maybe you have an idea that is not listed, please bring that idea forward.

Our organization is only as strong as the members want it to be. Please keep that enthusiasm going as we have a lot of work to do in the future.

Bunker Park

This past week Susan Wilson, Penny Reddish and I met with Rochester City Manager Jaymes Vettraino to discuss our newest project, Bunker Park. The proposed Bunker Park is located north of Bloomer Road and south of the Clinton River. In this area owned by the City of Rochester are five concrete bunkers that were used during World War II for the testing of Photoflash bombs made by McAleer Manufacturing. We would like to see this area turned into a park with a foot bridge to connect it to the Clinton River Trail. It would also fit into our plans for the Clinton River Valley Heritage Area. We are encouraged to move forward after our meeting with the City Manager and have met with and asked the Rochester Historical Commission to partner with us to make Bunker Park a reality. There is a lot of work to be done and we are just in the talking and planning stage. If you want to be on this committee, please call Rod at 248-651-6178.



Loss of a member

Many of you have already learned of the passing of our member, Marilyn Brooks. Marilyn was involved in many organizations in our community. For RAHS she was our

program chairperson for nine years. She always had a great array of speakers lined up for us. Marilyn will be missed. Our condolences also go out to James Hopkins with the loss of his sister Carol Hopkins Sheldon. And to Carole Fischer with the loss of her daughter-in-law.

The Oral History Project Is Alive And Well - JOIN US!

A committee that is always working behind the scenes is the Oral History Committee. If you are interested in working in any capacity on this committee, please contact Janet Potton at jjppost@hotmail.com. Your input in any area is always welcome, whether it is interviewing or transcribing and whether you can put in a lot of time or very little.

On this committee you are allowed to do just what you can when you can. Those who are currently or formerly active on the committee include Ginger Ketelsen, Kay Smith, Colleen Barkham, Jeanne Phillips, Mary Howarth, Allison Close, Janet Potton, Sue Wilson, Bobbie Chapman, Siobhan Quigley. Michelle Akers-Berg, serves as consultant and recipient of the master copies and tapes for Rochester Hills Museum. Rochester Avon Historical Society thanks them all most sincerely for their tireless effort.

The Oral History collection will be an ongoing project through the years as there will always be information to gather before it is lost. This committee has completed many interviews and the tapes and transcriptions of those have been distributed between the local historical societies, Rochester Hills Museum, and Rochester Hills Library. If you would like to access the recordings or transcripts, the easiest place to review them would be at Rochester Hills Library.

Oral History continued on Page 6

“Party Like It’s 1969!”

At our September 3, 2009 meeting, we will be commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the founding of Rochester Avon Historical Society.

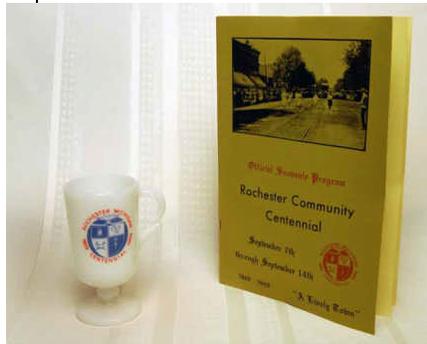
Although informal gatherings occurred in the years prior, the official culmination came about from a committee that worked on the preparation of the Rochester Centennial in 1969. Our constitution and by-laws were written that year, so our celebration and the Rochester Centennial are connected.

To celebrate our anniversary, we are preparing a program that revisits the Rochester Centennial. It is going to be a fun retrospective of one of the biggest celebrations in which the whole town participated.

The festivities continued for a week and featured

lots of events. If you were there, it will be a fun reminiscence for you and for those that were not here during that time – you might be surprised at all that went on in this little ‘lively’ town.

There were mugs, buttons, banners, programs and all kinds of memorabilia created for the celebration. If you have photos, your old costume, personal stories or would like to participate in a discussion at the program please contact Janet Potton, jippost@hotmail.com, or leave a message at 248-652-7296. This promises to be a fun evening so why not be a part of it!



CALLING ALL GENEALOGIST - BOTH EXPERIENCED AND BEGINNERS

Everyone is welcome!

✓ Please come and join us on the 3rd Tuesday of each month starting in September and ending in May. We meet in the 2nd floor conference room at the Rochester Hills Public Library from 1:00 to 3:00 PM.

✓ Go to the RHPL web-site and look on their calendar for up to date information on Topics.

✓ The topics to be discussed include the following:

- British Genealogical Research,
- Advantages of using Ancestry.com "Plant your Tree there!",
- PowerPoint/Scrapbooking for Genealogists,
- Ways to stay informed in Genealogy,
- the DNA/National Geographic Project,
- other topics TBA.

Also, A guided field trip to a new local genealogy source at Orchard Lake St. Mary's

Join the Rochester Avon Historical Society today!

Help to keep what is significant...

Refurbish what is historic ...

Maintain what is well-known.

- Bi-monthly newsletters
- Monthly meetings with guest speakers
- Downtown Rochester historical walking tours
- Monthly lunchtime talks by long-time area residents

Dues: Individual \$18, Family \$25, Contributor \$35. Mail your check made payable to the Society with your name, address, telephone and email address to: Rochester Avon Historical Society, P O Box 80783, Rochester, MI 48308-0783.

Oral History continued from Page 4

It is in our future plans that eventually these tape recordings can be digitized and placed on our website. If you have the skill to do that portion of the project; or if you would like to be interviewed; or know someone who should be interviewed; please contact Janet Potton.

Currently Terry Upton, Herb Peters, Ken Siewert, Fran Huegli, Tom Case and several more have been interviewed but transcription and distribution have not been totally completed. However, the following interviews have been fully completed and distributed:

Mary Jean Myers, Stuart Braid, Gail Kemler, Lou Ann Sutton Dennis, Group interview of Stuart Braid and Bob and Marion Galler and Adele Blust, Mary Potere Horrigan Thacker, Vern Whims, Jim Williams, Grace Collins, Larry Siegler, J.C. Ferrier, Henry Wood Axford, Jim

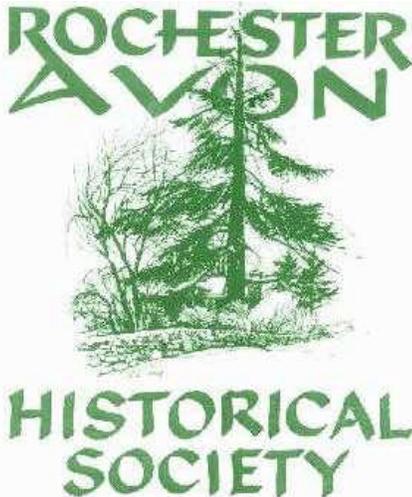
Hill, Charles Stoner, Glen Collins, John Terry, Margaret Norton, George and Betty Reichert, Barbara Bates, Kathryn Porritt, Carolyn Dulin, Ray Frank, Jan Guthrie Frank, and Beryl Crissman.

The next meeting of the Oral History Committee is scheduled for Saturday, September 12, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at Rochester Hills Museum Dairy Barn.

Summer Walking Tours

Don't miss the tours of downtown Rochester under the tutelage of Rod Wilson—the man in the top hat and tail coat. Tours start 7:00 PM at the Northeast corner of Rochester Mills parking lot and cost \$5 (\$3 for seniors and students).

Friday, July 24
 Thursday, August 20
 Sunday, September 13—1:00 PM



Rochester Avon Historical Society
 P O Box 80783
 Rochester, MI 48309-0783

Pride in
 Preserving
 the Past