

THE LARSMONT LINE

Save
the
Date

Larsmont Community Club • Early Summer 2021

Picnic & Fun Day Set for August 14



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 \$15 per year.
Paid members get
one free use of the
Little Red Schoolhouse
during the year.

Visit the
Community
Website at:
www.Larsmont.org

- Community News
- Calendar of Events
- Links to Resources
- Story Contributions

Help keep the website active

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



The annual Larsmont Community Fun Day celebration and picnic will be held this year on Saturday, August 14 at the Larsmont Little Red Schoolhouse. Last year's picnic was not held due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, organizers feel that this year's



gathering should be more of a celebration of new life for the community.

"We usually go out soliciting for silent auction items for our annual fun day in June," says Marlys Wisch, secretary/treasurer of the Larsmont Community Club. "But, this year we will forgo the silent auction and celebrate with a picnic of fun, games and fellowship.... (Last year) brought much hardship and sadness, so this will be a celebration of renewal." A sandwich and salad lunch will be served. Bring a dessert to share.

The Fun Day is open to the entire neighborhood. It's a fun chance to meet your neighbors. Official times are 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Specific events, such as the menu and games, are being decided by the planning committee.

Visitors enjoy a previous Larsmont Community Fun Day in August at the Little Red Schoolhouse.

LCC Gathers for Annual Meeting

Larsmont Community Club Annual Board
Meeting notes, May 24, 2021, 7 p.m.

Attendees: Marlys Wisch, Roger and Shirley Martinson, Jon and Kay Anderson, Cindy and Paul Hayden, Bill and Helen Tranah, Margaret Glass, Margaret Larson, David and Kathy Falk, Lana Bass and, at end of meeting, Matthew Ashford.

Pres. Tranah opened meeting at 7 p.m.
Secretary's report: Moved/Seconded/
Confirmed to approve minutes of May 13,
2019, Board meeting. Note: We did not
have an official Board meeting in 2020 due
to COVID-19. Executive Board met as
needed.

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2021 LCC Annual Meeting Notes

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www.larsmont.org



Have you stopped by our Little Free Library yet?

Crafted and built by our president, Bill Tranah, it looks just like our famous Schoolhouse, but contains books that have been left by area residents, free for the taking. Of course, you should also think about leaving a book of your choosing behind. This is a fun way to share with our friends in the community and provide fresh material on a regular basis.

**Take a Book
Leave a Book**

Treasurer's report: M/S/C to approve as presented.

New Business:
M/S/C to approve having D.A.C. mow our lawn.

Building Inspection Report: List was shared of all the work that has been completed at the schoolhouse since 2004 or so. We had a Building Inspector give us an assessment of work he felt needed to be done. We have completed almost all. Discussion of possible white picket fence across the property line in front of our schoolhouse. Decision – no, not needed, nor wanted by majority.

Projects Day: Pres. Tranah, we all, honored David Falk who has been our Groundskeeper for many years and is now retiring from the position. What projects we can work on for 2021: painting, skirting, walls, garage; pruning of the gardens, pruning of brush, trees.

Projects Day will be June 5th, backup is June 8th. Start time 9 a.m. Lunch will be provided. Please bring your own tools, painting tools.

Annual picnic/fun day: discussion – there will be no silent auction. Just fun and games and fellowship. We will cater the food. We will make this a celebration of community. Year 2020 brought much hardship, sadness, this will be a celebration of renewal. Date will be: Aug. 14, 2021. Marlys Wisch, Helen Tranah, Kay Anderson, Cindy Hayden, Margaret Glass, and others will be on the planning committee. Kay will do a power point about the history of Larsmont and the schoolhouse. We will check with our

An Invitation to Participate

by Bill Tranah
President, Larsmont Community Club

For several years we have focused on building improvements to preserve the schoolhouse and make it a more usable space for the community. At our last meeting, it was suggested that we focus on educating, informing and providing activities for our community members. Some suggestions were an art class, plants and pollinators speaker, travelogue or craft session, which could include people gathering to enjoy or share a favorite craft. We are open to suggestions.

insurance to see if we are covered sufficiently if we have alcohol at our event.

Other business:
We will be purchasing a plaque for the flag pole and a flag memorial box in honor of Dale Isackson, who was our Flag Tender for many years. Paul and Cindy will check with Duluth Brass about the plaque, checking the existing plaque, in honor of Mr. Murphy, first.

Discussion about our grant money from Lake County: Marlys outlined the agreement made a few years ago that we not “bank” the money, if we don't have a project to do that we return/do not accept more funds, money would go to other communities to share. Many projects were mentioned that can be done. We will continue to accept funds until all projects are finished.

Hire contractor to paint the schoolhouse, have guest speakers, presenting on a variety of issues, do the floor each year, landscaping/terracing. This will be safer than having volunteers on tall ladders.

Election of Officers:
Nominations:
President: Bill Tranah
Vice President: Margaret Glass
Secretary/Treasurer: Marlys Wisch
Grounds Keeper: Bill Hermanson
Flag Tender: Bill Hermanson
Editor-in-Chief: Paul Hayden
M/S/C to approve the slate of nominations as presented.
M/S/C to adjourn at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully written,
Marlys Wisch, Sec./Treas.

It would be great to meet more of our Larsmont neighbors and this might provide an opportunity to do so. Watch the newsletter for dates and times. We look forward to seeing you.



What's Happening this month on Highway 61?

It doesn't take long before it becomes obvious that something's happening this month on Highway 61, between Two Harbors and Knife River. Yup, they are resurfacing the roadway.

Starting in early July, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) began a \$6M project to upgrade the roadway and also install an intersection improvement called a Reduced Conflict Intersection where Highway 61 and County Road 9 meet (near Sonju Motors).

MnDOT explains that a reduced conflict intersection prohibits left-turns and through-movements from side street approaches. Instead, drivers turn right onto the main road and then make a U-turn at a one-way median opening 400 ft. to 1,000 ft. after the intersection. Left turns from the main road approaches are similar to left turns at conventional intersections.

The object of the improvement is to decrease fatalities and injuries caused by broadside crashes on four-lane divided highways. In some parts of the country, RCIs are sometimes referred to as J-turns or RCUT.

MnDOT explains that a typical four-lane divided highway intersection has 42 possible vehicle conflict points. RCI's reduce conflict points to as few as 18.

With an RCI, drivers from the side street only have to be concerned with one direction of traffic on the highway at a time. You don't need to wait for a gap in both directions to cross a major road. Traditional four-lane divided highway intersections have an elevated risk of severe right-angle crashes (commonly called “T-bone” crashes), especially for drivers attempting to cross all four lanes of traffic or turn left. At a traditional intersection, motorists from the side street need to look in both directions to cross a four-lane divided highway. Left turns require the same level of attention.



More than 30 RCIs have been constructed by MnDOT in the state. In addition to the RCI construction, the project is resurfacing almost seven miles of pavement in both directions, repairing or replacing culverts and installing new guardrails. The project is expected to last through the month of August, with reduced speed limits and lane closures on Highway 61 and access to Highway 61 at County 9 blocked for a couple of weeks.



graphics courtesy MnDOT

Final Salute to Dale

One of the distinctive features of the Little Red Schoolhouse is the lighted American Flag that flies day and night over the building. The care of this symbol of Larsmont was the responsibility of Dale Isackson, the official Flag Tender. On May 12 we lost our neighbor when Dale suffered a stroke at Lake View Hospital in Two Harbors. He died at age 89.

Dale instituted the shining light and would periodically change flags if the old one became worn.

All flags have been flown over the U.S. Capitol building prior to being used at the Larsmont schoolhouse.

In honor of Dale, a special plaque is being installed on the schoolhouse flag pole. The new Flag Tender, Bill Hermanson, has



recovered the flag that last flew over the building, which will be encased and displayed with honors inside the schoolroom.



www.larsmont.org

Larsmont - A Great Place to Live and Visit

The Larsmont Community Club supports the local business community by presenting this complimentary display of merchants within the traditional Larsmont boundaries. Our intent is to remind you of the opportunities that exist to

support the community year-round. We hope that visitors will visit and/or stay in the area and patronize our local businesses. After all, there's more to Larsmont than our Little Red Schoolhouse.

**Stonegate
on Superior**
stonegateonsuperior.com

**Burton's Forge
& Gallery**
burtonforgeblacksmith.com

**Larsmont Cottages
on Lake Superior**
odysseyresorts.com

**Larsmont
Trading Post**
larsmonttradingpost.com

**Mocha Moose
Coffee Café**
www.instagram.com/
mochamoose.coffee/

**Lake County
Veterinary Clinics**
lakecountyvet.com

**BE Nelson
Design Silversmith**
www.facebook.com/
BENelsonSilversmith/

**Breezy Point Cabins
on Lake Superior**
odysseyresorts.com/
breezy-point-cabins/

**Wagon Wheel
Campsites**
218-834-4901

**Bob's Cabins
on Lake Superior**
www.bobsabinson
lakesuperior.com

**Penmarallter
Campsite**
penmaralltercampsite.com

**Sonju
Two Harbors**
www.sonju.com

**Earthwood Inn,
Restaurant & Bar**
theearthwood.com

**North Shore
Scenic Railroad**
duluthtrains.com

Come Visit Larsmont

A Blast from the Past

This poem was written on the occasion of the all-Larsmont Reunion, July 27, 1980

Across the Track

by Tom Sjoblom

This school contains some memories,
There's lots that we could tell;
I even thought as I approached
I heard the teacher ring the bell.
There's been a lot of changes made
Since those early childhood days;
The thing that still remains the same
Is the railroad right-of-way.
The culture of our little town
Is based upon the fact,
Our geographic boundary line
Was just a plain old railroad track.

This old track's seen lots of service,
Hauling people, fish and mail.
Day and night she'd carry traffic,
We didn't think she'd every fail!
But this old track is getting rusty,
Rails and ties hang in the air.
The Missabe feels it just ain't worth
The section laborer's care.
There still may be a ray of hope,
Others may get in the act
And once again may carry tourists
Over this familiar track.



Election time, just like today,
Were bickering debates.
Self esteem, if ever stressed,
Was too little or too late.
Neighbors made their choice at polls,
At the town hall in Knife River;
We knew regardless of who would win,
School and chores would be forever.
Larsmont votes weren't national news,
But when our land went Democrat,
Our post office was promptly moved
To Ollie's store above the track!

Others chose commercial fishing
Long before us kids arrived;
'Twas not for us to question why
They worked so hard for goals they strived.
Soon we'd learn of kids whose dads
Were financiers and brokers;
With pride we always let them know
Our dads were honest herring chokers!
Lots of work, but little pay
'Cause market prices always lacked;
Those were elements endured
By fishermen below the track!

Larsmont had its share of game,
Where bear and deer were found;
And one could lay awake at night
And hear the wolves' familiar sound.
My favorite bird, I must admit,
Has got to be the seagull;
His song exceeds all that of others,
Especially with his belly full!
We'd dump the fish guts on the rocks,
And after they'd devour the stack,
Their songs of gratitude were heard
By those who lived below the track!

This town ain't known for athletes,
There was no time for basketball.
The only place to practice
Was the smooth side of the barn.
Girls partook in sports we had;
No question - Should we let her?
'Cause there were times we must admit
That they were even better!
The big event in town was when
We had to take a whack
At the rugged competition
From the other side of the track!



Our parents had one thing in common -
A strong belief in God;
Some called our town the "Holy City,"
Free of all immoral fraud.
But kids will always seem to find
The pleasures that they search;
I guess that's why our little school
Eventually became a church.
Perhaps we're better off today,
Our conscience led us back
To gather at our Sunday School,
From both sides of the track!

As kids we had our share of fun,
In spite of work with cows and chickens,
Or setting nets and cleaning fish -
We still found time to raise the chickens!
Our modern pools and skating rinks
Would have proved quite inferior,
To all the fun provided us
By good old Lake Superior!
Halloween and April Fool?
We'll not get into that,
Except to say our focal point
Was the railroad station by the track!



Some have moved from here out East,
And some have moved out West;
But then there's those of us who like
Our northern Minnesota best.
When modern demolition plans
Seem to be the rule,
We alumni are so glad
You chose to spare our little school;
'Cause here we learned to read and write,
And how to face the fact
That each of us had lots to learn
On both sides of the track!

The Larsmont livelihood composed
Of railroaders and fishermen;
We always felt the latter group
Were better off back then.
They always had those certain hours,
They'd labor at the shops each day;
The weather was no factor
To interrupt their pay.
Depression years were felt by all,
Accounts weren't always in the black;
But railroad benefits and fares
Belonged to those above the track!

Money went for food and clothing,
With little left to render -
Except the time our rolling tire
Made us buy a Chevy fender!
Game was plentiful back then,
Weapons were our slingshots;
We'd leave on hunting expeditions
With nothing that our money bought.
Armed with all the bare essentials,
And included in our pack
Were pockets full of ammunition
From beaches down below the track!

The fish platform has disappeared,
Where we'd sit and count the cars;
A seldom venture to Duluth
Was really pretty far.
There were no property restrictions -
Fences were for cows;
Now you have elaborate freeways
And only vehicles allowed!
But should you find these elements
More than you can hack,
Be glad you live in Larsmont
On either side of the track!

Our heritages were comprised
Besides of very few,
A hearty group of Swedes and Finns,
And some Norwegians, too.
They seemed content as emigrants
Enduring hardships here,
Where freedom was a way of life,
With no internal fears.
Perhaps we'd need them back today
To deal with greedy bureaucrats,
And show them how to get along
With those who live across the track!



A tribute to the ones who've reached
The sunset years of life -
They've weathered many challenges,
Enduring hardships, stress and strife.
Now are rapidly approaching
The realm of pioneers;
We hope the fortitude you taught us
Will be of help in coming years.
We honor those no longer here,
We wish that they were back
With us at this endearing site -
From both sides of the track!

Donations to the Building Fund and Club

Larsmont Community Club

President

Bill Tranah

Vice President

Margaret Glass

Secretary/Treasurer

Marlys Wisch

218-834-5988

mwisch@lakeconnections.net

Building/Grounds

Bill Hermanson

Flag Tender

Bill Hermanson

Newsletter Editor

Paul L. Hayden

Please mail dues to Marlys at
489 Larsmont Rd.
Two Harbors, MN 55616

Fun Fact

The Schoolhouse is the
official Larsmont polling
place for elections.

www.larsmont.org

The Larsmont Community Club established the Building Maintenance Fund in 2006 to accept donations from members to be used toward repairs and upkeep of the building and grounds. Donations to the Building Fund have always been one of the most important cash contributions to the club. These funds are always needed. Those who donate are recognized through small certificates displayed in the Schoolhouse.

In addition to the Building Fund, each year members of the club renew their memberships and donate time and materials for the upkeep of the structure and grounds. There is no cash value to these donated hours, however these, too, are some of the most valuable ways support can be given to the endeavors of the LCC.

The board of the Larsmont Community Club continually expresses thanks to all who give of their time and dollars to make sure that Larsmont has a figurehead worthy of praise and admiration.

Cash donations in 2020 were received from

- Kay & Jonathan Anderson
- Len & Judy Beardsley
- Desmond & MaryJo Burton
- David & Pamela Coolidge
- Gaye DeBenedetti
- Douglas & Mary Edmonson
- David & Kathleen Falk

- Diane & Joseph Friebe
- David & Margaret Glass
- Rosemary & Tim Guiney
- Bill Guse
- Philip & Helen Hartley
- Paul & Cindy Hayden
- Terry Highland
- Ronald & Mary Holm
- Wayne Hougas
- Dale Isackson
- Ralph & Ruth Anne Jacobson
- Kerry & Warren Jessen
- Karl & Beth Johansson
- Kevin Johnson
- Wayne Johnson
- Mike Kennedy & Amy Renne
- Laurie Murphy
- Neil & Barbara Normandin
- Bill & Cindy Ortman
- James Ortman
- David & Jo-Ann Rossetter
- Lila Stevens
- Earl & Julie Stewart
- Emily Ely Stocke

Anyone who lives in, visits or even thinks about Larsmont can be a member. You can send your \$15 dues or make donations specifically to the Building Fund through Secretary/Treasurer Marlys Wisch, 489 Swanson Rd., Larsmont, MN 55616.



Home of the Little Red Schoolhouse