

THE MUSEUM OF LAKE MINNETONKA



July 2023 Update from MLM's Board of Directors

LAKE MINNETONKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY APPROVED!

- ☐ Excelsior-Lake Minnetonka Historical Society
- ☐ Museum of Lake Minnetonka
- ☐ Wayzata Historical Society
- ☐ Westonka Historical Society

We are pleased to announce the consolidation of our four Lake Minnetonka Historical Societies has won overwhelming approval from the membership of each of the societies. The consolidation will become effective on October 1, 2023. All four historical societies will dissolve and the newly formed LMHS will carry forward their shared mission of telling the story of Lake Minnetonka by collecting, preserving and sharing its history.

The four organizations have collaborated successfully in the past and share similar missions, collection areas, members, funders, volunteers, and audiences. Each of the organizations is in good fiscal health, but all face similar challenges including attracting and sustaining volunteer leadership. In 2019 the organizations received a \$52,000 Heritage Partnership Grant funded by an appropriation to the Minnesota Historical Society from the Minnesota Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund. This enabled a Joint Committee established by the four organizations to hire Arts Consulting Group to analyze all aspects of each organization (i.e., missions, programs, and constituents) and to study various models across the strategic alliance spectrum. It was determined that consolidation into one organization would best address their challenges and allow them to better serve the history of the Lake Minnetonka community.

The LMHS will have one of the largest archival and three-dimensional collections of Lake Minnetonka history available in person and online. Working together to combine the strengths of each organization, and with the eventual addition of professional staff, the new organization plans to expand their mission and tell the story of Lake Minnetonka in updated and innovative ways for all audiences. The new organization will collect, preserve and share Lake Minnetonka history in the communities of Deephaven, Excelsior, Greenwood, Minnetonka, Minnetonka Beach, Minnetrista, Mound, Orono, Shorewood, Spring Park, Tonka Bay, Victoria, Wayzata & Woodland.

Future plans for LMHS include housing their consolidated archives in one location to allow for best preservation practices and convenient public access; sharing the lake's history through expanded public

programs and experiences around the lake as well as in their current museums in Excelsior, Mound & Wayzata; and returning *Minnehaha* to active operation on Lake Minnetonka.

The new LMHS will be governed by a Board of Directors consisting of two directors designated by each organization. MLM's directors are Sharon Provost and Tom McCarthy. Aaron Person will serve as a director on behalf of the Wayzata Historical Society. Current MLM directors Liz Vandam and Scott McGinnis will also serve as LMHS directors representing Westonka Historical Society and the Excelsior-Lake Minnetonka Historical Society respectively. *Minnehaha* will be well represented!

Work on forming the new LMHS is already proceeding full speed ahead. Tom McCarthy will continue to lead the search for a new launch solution. Stay tuned for future updates on the transition and how you can get involved!



Update from the Barn

MLM continues to be blessed with the best crew of dedicated maintenance engineers and volunteers! Currently, the team is prepping the installation of the new high water alarm system by stringing marine-grade wiring that is compliant with the latest ABYC industry standards.



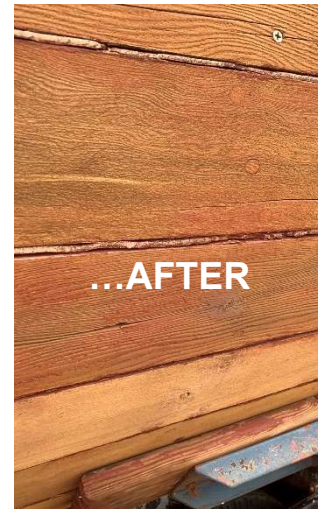
Prepping to pull *Minnehaha* from the Barn to have her bottom paint removed. L to R: John Anderson, Pius Eigenmann, Rusty Herman, Bob Hagstrom, Dave Peterson. Other team members not pictured include John Palmer, Mark Berno, Jeff Bipes, Jeff Cotter. We are SO grateful for the dedication of all our great maintenance team!



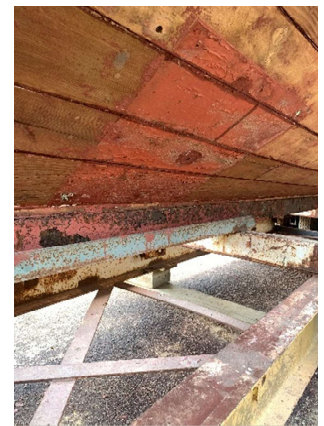
Prior to removing the bottom paint from her hull, *Minnehaha's* steam engine was fully wrapped in plastic to shield it from any airborne debris.



Over two full days, the team from Clean 'N Seal exercised great care to ensure only bottom paint was removed from the hull.



What a transformation 48 hours makes!



After the paint was removed, Mark Berno and Pius Eigenmann removed the forward and aft lightning discharge plates so the areas underneath could be sanded.



Looking mighty fine just before being pushed back inside the barn!



Before the boat was moved back inside, Rusty Herman had steam coming from the engine compartment! He gave the bilge a hot wash cleaning prior to the bilge's repainting this winter.

Hull Rehabilitation Grant

Thanks to the advice of long-time *Minnehaha* friend and master shipwright Mark Sauer, the Board decided to move forward with removing the bottom paint from the hull. Mark felt strongly that doing so could help inform our pending large grant application for funding from the Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grant Program. We were already working on a large grant application to address the five cracked ribs and two stern planks – all of which need replacing. Mark knows full well that work to rehabilitate a vessel's hull often reveals unanticipated surprises once a project is underway. Because MNHS only considers large grant requests (over \$10,000) once each year, it was critical that our request minimize the risk of encountering surprise issues. Removing the bottom paint would inform us about any other structural work that should be incorporated into our funding request.

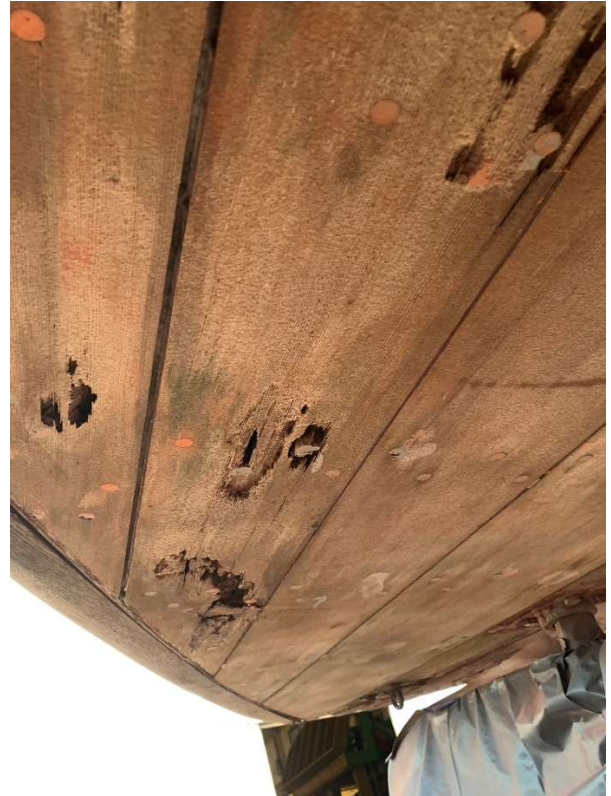
Mark could not have been more spot on. As the paint was being removed, it became evident that the bottom planks at the stern had significant rot issues. Fortunately, the rot is mostly limited to four bottom planks – two on port, two on starboard. Why the rot was concentrated on these planks is unknown. As Mark observed upon inspecting the boat "...it could've been worse." However, the impact on the hull's structural integrity is such that repairs must be made before she can return to operation. Fortunately, we found out now while she is still laid up.

The Board has now submitted a comprehensive application which fully documents the extent of the repairs needed and outlines the necessary work phases. In total, the funding request totals \$102,369 which covers replacement of the ribs, stern and bottom planks, plus recaulking and repainting so the hull is structurally sound and watertight. Fortunately, *Minnehaha's* addition to the National Register of Historic Places now enables MLM to apply for preservation funding. A decision is anticipated by the end of the year at which time MLM will open a Request For Proposals from qualified shipwrights for this project.

Thanks to Liz Vandam, Paul Maravelas, and Rachel Houck for their expertise in helping craft our application. Fingers crossed!



(2) Stern Planks just below the waterline need replacing



(4) Bottom Planks have significant rot and must be replaced



(5) Cracked Ribs need replacing



Close-up view of one area of rot.

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New Hall of Fame Inductees!

The Board is pleased to announce the induction of five new members to *Minnehaha's* Hall of Fame:

- ❖ **John Moorhead** is being recognized posthumously for his service as naval architect for the restored *Minnehaha* and his work to procure and ship the O'Connor steam engine.
- ❖ **Lori Hammond** is being recognized for her involvement in many aspects of the *Minnehaha* Restoration Project beginning around 1993. Lori also helped lead the initial captain's training program in 1995-96.
- ❖ **Ann Merriman** and **Chris Olson** were instrumental in virtually all administrative activities during the late 1990s and early 2000s, including staffing the Steamboat Division office. Both played a significant role in the formation of the Museum of Lake Minnetonka in 2003-4. Ann & Chris formed Maritime Heritage Minnesota circa 2010 and now are among Minnesota's leading underwater archeologists.
- ❖ **Bruce Tuttle** is being recognized for his involvement in multiple aspects of the *Minnehaha* Restoration Project beginning around 1994. Bruce became one of *Minnehaha's* early captains in the late 1990s and served most seasons until 2016.

Because of the pending consolidation creating the new Lake Minnetonka Historical Society, MLM will not be hosting a social gathering of the membership before its dissolution. We encourage all to reach out and welcome these new inductees!

The Board is also creating a Hall of Fame plaque where the names of all *Minnehaha* Hall of Fame inductees will be permanently enshrined. This long overdue tribute will be unveiled soon!

MINNEHAHA'S HALL OF FAME MEMBERS:

- ❖ Jerry Provost (2012)
- ❖ Jim Ogland (2012)
- ❖ Gabriel Jabbour (2012)
- ❖ Kermit Stake (2013)
- ❖ Brad Buxton (2013)
- ❖ Jim Murphy (2013)
- ❖ Leo Meloche (2014)
- ❖ Sharon Provost (2015)
- ❖ Bob Johnson (2016)
- ❖ Terry Burns (2019)
- ❖ John Palmer (2019)
- ❖ Cliff Schlueter (2019)
- ❖ Bill Niccum (2019)
- ❖ Darel + LaVerna Leipold (2019)
- ❖ Bob Bolles (2019)
- ❖ Bob Woodburn (2019)
- ❖ Stan Straley (2019)
- ❖ Bob Dumas (2019)
- ❖ Ross McGlasson (2019)
- ❖ John Anderson (2019)
- ❖ John Moorhead (2023)
- ❖ Ann Merriman & Chris Olson (2023)
- ❖ Lori Hammond (2023)
- ❖ Bruce Tuttle (2023)

NEW NRHP PLAQUES TO BE POSTED ON BOARD SOON!

Two plaques designating *Minnehaha's* listing on the NRHP are on order and will be proudly on display as passengers enter through the gangway.



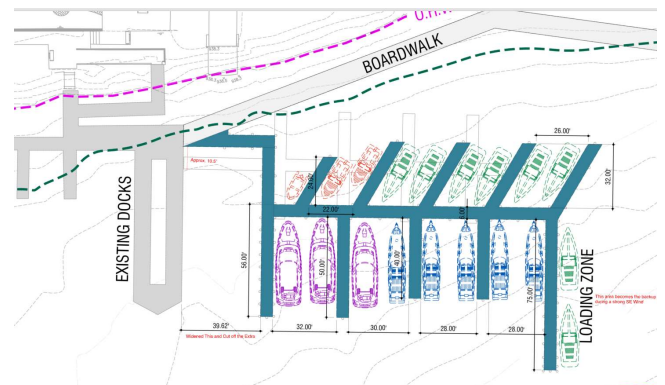
Official NRHP Designation Plaque



"Builders" Plaque

WAYZATA MOVES FORWARD WITH NEW LAKEWALK & DOCKS!

After a lengthy design project, Wayzata has now begun construction of a new lakewalk that will run from the Depot to the Broadway Avenue docks and connect to the Section Foreman house. While the wooden docks at the Depot will remain, the City is constructing new transient docks at both the Depot and at Broadway Avenue. Tom McCarthy of MLM participated as a member of the Dock Planning Task Force. Be sure to stop by and check out all the construction activity now underway at the waterfront!



New Dock Configuration at the Wayzata Depot: Existing wood docks shown in gray with new lakewalk along the shoreline. Plan replaces old floating docks with new slips. Charter boats would continue to use either side of the "Existing Docks." Note easterly "Loading Zone" which was specifically designed to accommodate "Minnehaha" in southeasterly winds.

View from the Crow's Nest

by Tom McCarthy

As *Minnehaha* navigates towards a new chapter, it seems only appropriate to look back and reflect. Each of us can reflect on many memorable moments that we enjoyed aboard *Minnehaha*. There were many successes following the transition from our days with the Minnesota Transportation Museum. To be sure, there were an equal number of challenges...none more daunting than our current search for a new launch solution. Despite it all, *Minnehaha* remains front and center in the hearts of the entire lake community. Nearly every conversation I have begins with the question "When will we be able to ride her again?" She is loved by one and all. That love stems from the audacity of a simple idea: Let's rebuild *Minnehaha* so she can once again thrill all who ride her. It also stems from the efforts and dedication of those who invested their heart and soul in the boat. That passion endures today thanks to the wonderful legacy our founders passed on to us. It is why we are committed to finding not just a solution, but a permanent solution. We will not settle for losing *Minnehaha* a second time.

That solution can't come fast enough for our members, volunteers, and community. People who ask "What's the hold up?" don't have any concept of the magnitude of what a solution entails. Work on a comprehensive solution is proceeding and should be ready to share publicly by year's end. Any decision on enacting a solution will be up to the greater Lake Minnetonka community to determine if there is sufficient support (financial and otherwise) to move forward. MLM's volunteers stand ready for the blast of *Minnehaha's* steam whistle, but we alone are unable to make it happen.

We are indebted to all our volunteers, but especially those who are members of *Minnehaha's* Hall of Fame, for standing fast on their belief in, and support for, the vision of *Minnehaha* as a living museum.

So, while work progresses on building the plan, work also continues to ensure *Minnehaha* is shipshape for when the call comes. Our latest grant request is a big step in that direction. We believe we have built a strong argument for funding. While we wait a decision on our request, the Saturday morning crew continues to report for duty tackling each job, big or small, and in so doing they keep the torch lit. We are all in debt to each and every one of them!

Just as things were different when *Minnehaha* transitioned from MTM to MLM, so it will be as we become LMHS. And just as our members moved from MTM to MLM, so too will we all continue our support as members of LMHS. The new Lake Minnetonka Historical Society is equally passionate and supportive of returning *Minnehaha* to active operation. I encourage all of MLM's members and volunteers to participate in the broad array of opportunities with LMHS – there will many interesting and fun programming activities as well as places to contribute our time. You will find many familiar faces who have ridden aboard *Minnehaha* and are eager to do so again.

On behalf of the MLM Board, thank you to all who have contributed so much and continue to do so today. We have so many more memories to make!

Some of Tom's most memorable moments aboard *Minnehaha*:



Shared Experiences: Inviting disabled young adults from Hammer, Inc. to take their turn being Captain!



New Friendships: Alex & Ben Dzurik, the 'Purser Twins'



Family Moments: Last ride with my father, a WWII Navy captain. Turned out to be a very stormy ride with a nail-biter landing!

What are your Most Memorable *Minnehaha* Moments?

MLM Board member, avid local historian, and author Liz Vandam is currently working on the manuscript for a new book about *Minnehaha*. Liz is actively collecting remembrances, photos, etc. to help tell *Minnehaha's* amazing life story. Liz invites all to contact her at lizvandam5@gmail.com

Upcoming LM History Events:



HISTORY PROGRAM:

WAYZATA THEN...WAYZATA NOW

Part 1: Thursday, July 27th 7:00 pm

**Wayzata Community Room At Wayzata City Hall
600 Rice Street East**

Part 2: Thursday, September 28th 7:15 pm

**Wayzata Community Room at Wayzata City Hall
600 Rice Street East**

A two-part program by the Wayzata Historical Society will explore the “old” and the “new” Wayzata. During these programs, WHS board member Joanie Holst will guide us on a virtual “tour” of various sites and places across Wayzata that have changed over the years. The story of Wayzata is rich and deep and cannot be done in one presentation, so this will be a two-part series. This two-part program is free to the public, registration not required.



HISTORY CRUISE:

THE NARROWS - GATEWAY TO THE GILDED AGE

Monday August 14th aboard *Lady of the Lake*

Departs @ 6:00pm - Boarding begins 5:45pm

Limited seats remain – act quickly!

For tickets, go to elmhs.org and click on History Cruises

A panel of Lake Minnetonka historians will tell the fascinating history of “The Narrows” while passengers cruise by these man-made channels which allowed boats to travel between Upper and Lower Lake to visit Gilded Age attractions such as James J. Hill’s astonishing Hotel Lafayette. Passengers will also learn the history of Thompson Family Summer Home, George & Lucy Camp’s Summer Home & Huntington Point, St. Martin’s by the Lake, Huntington Point, and Big Island.

NOTE: MLM’s Board will not meet in August due to scheduling conflicts.

The next Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 5th from 6:00 – 8:00 PM at the Wayzata Public Library (620 Rice Street East).



HISTORY CRUISE:

THE HISTORIC SHORES OF DEEPAVEN

Sunday, September 17th aboard *Lady of the Lake*

Departs 3:00pm – Boarding begins 2:45pm

For tickets, go to elmhs.org and click on History Cruises

Historian Scott McGinnis will take us on a lake tour past the bathouses, cottages and castles of historic Deephaven. From Cottagewood to Chimo—some gone, some still standing - but all with a place in history.

Volunteer Open House!

August 5th 3:00 – 6:00 pm

At Pique Travel, 306 Water St., Excelsior

MLM, along with the Excelsior-Lake Minnetonka Historical Society, Wayzata Historical Society and Westonka Historical Society are inviting the public to a **Volunteer Open House** to support the new Lake Minnetonka Historical Society (LMHS), officially consolidating on October 1, 2023.

Attendees will learn about long and short-term plus occasional help opportunities. Committees include Public Programs, Museums, Archives/Collections, Marketing/Communications, Development/Fundraising, working with the steamboat *Minnehaha* and more. Opportunities fit a wide range of ages, in-person and virtual abilities, interests and schedules.

This is a great chance to get in on the ground floor of creating our new Lake Minnetonka Historical Society. Help imagine what LMHS can be...and help bring it to life!

Light refreshments will be served.

MUSEUM HOURS:

WAYZATA DEPOT MUSEUM:

402 East Lake Street

Open Weekends, Wednesday and Holidays 12:00pm – 4:00pm

Garden Railroad open Weekends 1:00pm – 4:00pm weather permitting

WAYZATA ARCHIVES & HISTORY CENTER:

620 Rice Street East – Lower Level of the Wayzata Public Library

Open Saturdays 10:00am – 12:00pm

EXCELSIOR MUSEUM:

305 Water Street

Open Saturdays May 6th – Sept. 30th 11:00am – 3:00 pm

EXCELSIOR ARCHIVES:

260 School Avenue – Lower Level of Old Public School Building

For info or appointment, info@elmhs.org or 952-221-4766

WESTONKA MUSEUM:

5341 Maywood Rd, Mound

Open Saturdays 10:00am – 2:00pm