



## Kicking Off Our 25th Year with a Bang!



Vicki Nelson won the **"Best Plaid"** contest.



VCC students and their ice harvesting interpretive station at **Whirlwind!**



Sherry Abts and Ben Caruso show their Dorothy pride at the **Fundraising Dinner's** selfie station.

**M**useum staff, volunteers and supporters helped kick off our 25th year inspiring the next generation of Northwoods stewards with our **Ely Winter Festival** events.

Approximately 125 people joined us on Saturday, February 3rd for our 4th annual **Whirlwind!** — a free community event featuring fun Dorothy-themed winter activities. Throughout the day, students in Vermilion Community College's Wilderness and Park Management Program presented guests information and led activities about ice harvesting, water purification and fire-building, ice fishing and staying warm when it's cold out.

On Tuesday, February 6th, the museum hosted its first **Brew-it Yourself Class** in partnership with the Ely Folk School. Nine participants learned about Dorothy's root beer business with a guided tour, enjoyed a taste-test of the museum's Isle of Pines Root Beer and three home-made versions, and then mixed up their own variation of a simple

root beer recipe in a take-home custom growler (available for sale this summer).

**The Annual Fundraising Dinner**, which will be referred to as our **"Plaid Tie Event"** going forward, featured a walk down memory lane with a short video chronicling the history of the Dorothy Molter Museum and the proverbial passing of the torch from exiting director, Sarah Guy Levar, to entering director, Jess Edberg. Although, the torch was symbolized by a hand-carved, wood sculpture of a portaging Dorothy with her beloved dog, Peg. As always, it was a wonderful evening of support for Dorothy's legacy and fellowship with those who love her. 🐾

To learn more about **Dorothy Molter's** life in the Boundary Waters on Knife Lake, find books (including *The Root Beer Lady*) about Dorothy at:

[www.rootbeerlady.com](http://www.rootbeerlady.com)

## Message from the Director



Sarah Guy-Levar and Jess Edberg

Dear Friends of Dorothy Molter,

When I started working at the Dorothy Molter Museum in April 2014, I was energized with the new challenge I was taking on, but also apprehensive. Here I was, leaving my

comfort zone of ecology and the scientific process to teaching about an individual person who was not only an historical figure but a beloved icon of the Ely area (some may say the world).

Dorothy Molter embodied characteristics and values we all aspire to. Who represented a time in Ely's history that, for many, is still sensitive to talk about. A person who is no longer here to share insights or feelings or true thoughts on a subject so it would be my job to make sure her story was told the right way.

Gradually, the anxiety was replaced with admiration. This person was a woman who, throughout her life, made choices that defied social conventions and invited others to judge. I started to feel somewhat of a kinship with her. She started to inspire me rather than intimidate me. I can say with all sincerity that I love my job.

Sarah Guy-Levar likely saw this growth in me. Looking back, I feel like she was preparing me for this new chapter in my life and the museum's history, whether she knows it or not.

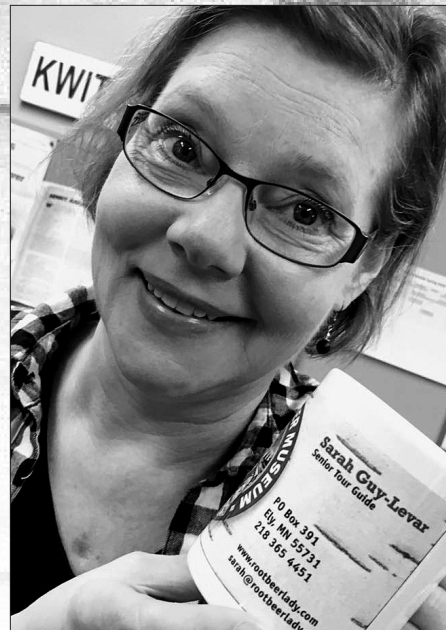
I'm truly grateful to Sarah for guiding me into this new position and demonstrating how to be a successful director. Her innate ability to create a sense of family out of a diverse group of staff is something I aspire to.

Again, I'm energized. And, a little apprehensive.

I'm aware that Sarah is leaving incredibly large shoes to fill. However, I feel up to the challenge and I ask that you be patient as I navigate this new role at the museum. I'm confident that my passion for the legacy of Dorothy Molter will fuel my growth in this position. The support to the museum from our shared community — physical and virtual — is humbling and I hope that I prove to be worthy of it. 🐾

With Sincerity,  
Jess

## Sarah's Message



Sarah Guy-Levar, Senior Tour Guide

Dear Friends of the Dorothy Molter Museum,

When Jess Edberg, your new E.D., asked me to write my "swan song" I wasn't sure where to start. How does one wrap into a short paragraph 11 years of memories and experiences? I recently read that in 1936 there were only 69 known individual trumpeter swans. Due to conservation efforts there is now a healthy population of over 36,000.

What a recovery! What a success story. My story at the Dorothy Molter Museum can be read much the same. When I started in January of 2007 the museum was \$15,000 in debt, had a \$30,000 mortgage and no inventory of root beer. In fact, we owed our Virginia Distributor \$1700 worth of root beer that we had borrowed when our supply ran out for the Blueberry Festival!

With the help of dedicated board members, volunteers and staff, the museum has not only recovered but is thriving. Perhaps this is my proudest achievement but, other important milestones from along the way come to mind as well.

Working to bring running water and bathroom facilities to the museum, new exhibits, remodeling the interpretive center, properly documenting our archives, authoring a new biography, and creating a culture of family are all accomplishments I feel really good about.

I also feel good about the future of the museum. I have so much confidence that the management team led by Jess will take the museum to new heights with improved programming, exhibits and a broader distribution of root beer.

Although I am writing my "swan song" I am really not going away. I am so pleased that Jess has kept me on as "senior tour guide" and one day a week I will do what I love best at the museum: sharing Dorothy's inspiring story. So **THANK YOU** for helping me along the journey. I will be forever grateful for your part in this success story. 🐾

Fondly,  
Sarah

## Say "hello" to Laurie Bambas, our new Wholesale Manager!



Laurie Bambas  
My first trip to Ely was in the 70's with my dad and grandparents. When they all decided to retire to Ely in 1985 and the late-90s, I longed to be near them but due to my career path in transportation, I ended up in Atlanta, GA. However, in 2012, I had an opportunity to come to Ely and after 20 years in the transportation industry working for brokers, freight forwarders and steamship lines, I was suddenly where my grandparents had decided to spend their twilight years! I was given an amazing opportunity at Northern Tier (BSA base outside of Ely) from 2013-2018 working in food service, the trading post and in purchasing. When I found out there was an opportunity at the Dorothy Molter Museum I immediately contacted them. Whoever thought that the career that kept me from here full time would come to use here! Dorothy inspires me to be a better person and I look forward to working with the amazing staff and meeting the visitors. Outside of work I enjoy exploring the beautiful Northwoods with my two dogs, Mabel and Huey, who are getting used to "working" at the museum (they get along great with Dutch and Bracco!) and various community activities including the Kiwanis Club and community theater.

Laurie can be reached for questions regarding Isle of Pines Root Beer brewing, distributing and wholesale purchasing at [wholesale@rootbeerbady.com](mailto:wholesale@rootbeerbady.com) or by calling the museum. 🐾

# Thank You!

A big **Thank You** to the many businesses, organizations and individuals who either donated their goods and services to our silent auction or their skill and time as a volunteer for our February events. We could not host these community events and programs without the support of friends. We truly appreciate how generous our communities are, whether it's in person or online, and how that support makes the Dorothy Molter Museum stronger. We encourage you to peruse our Facebook page to see all the donations we received and, in turn, support the donors with your business. **Danke!!** 🐾

## Camp KWITCHURBELIAKIN focuses on Dorothy's Root Beer



This summer, Camp K will focus on Dorothy's famous root beer. Campers ages 4 to 12 years old will not only learn about the reason behind Dorothy making it but also

get to make some of their very own brew to take home in a custom growler! This program will be held Tuesdays in conjunction with Ely's Tuesday Night Live, June 19 to August 14 from 2:00 to 3:30. Cost is \$12 per child per week. Parents may stay with young children or tour the site (\$6.50, members free) while children are participating. Call the museum at 218-365-4451 to register or sponsor a camper. 🐾

### Museum Opens for its 25th Season

**Saturday, May 26th** – the Canoe Raffle begins and new exhibit **Creating the Boundary Waters: 25 Objects, 25 Stories** is on track to open. 🐾

### Upcoming Events

#### **Dorothy Day: Celebrating 25 Years**

Sunday, June 24th, 11 am – 2 pm, **FREE**

#### **Brew-it-Yourself Classes**

Thursdays, June 28th, July 19th  
and August 16th, 6 – 8 pm

#### **Museum Closed for Independence Day**

Wednesday, July 4th

#### **Donuts at Dorothy's**

Sunday, July 22nd, 11 am – 2 pm, **FREE**

#### **Annual Blueberry Arts Festival**

Friday, July 27th – Sunday, July 29th

#### **Night at the Museum**

Tuesday, August 14th, 7 pm – 7 pm, **FREE**

Visit our website for more information  
as these dates approach:

[www.rootbeerbady.com](http://www.rootbeerbady.com)



Keep up with everything we've got going on by following us on **facebook** or visiting our website: [rootbeerbady.com](http://rootbeerbady.com)



www.rootbeerlady.com

Dorothy Molter Memorial Foundation  
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**DOROTHY MOLTER MUSEUM BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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 Finance Manager: Lisa Robbins  
 Wholesale Manager: Laurie Bambas  
 Graphic Design: Mike Tincher, T DESIGN



**Our Mission**

The Dorothy Molter Museum preserves and interprets Northwoods wilderness heritage through learning opportunities inspired by Dorothy Molter, the last non-indigenous resident of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

**Thank you!**

The Dorothy Molter Museum wishes to thank the City of Ely, Vermilion Community College, and The Superior National Forest for their ongoing support.

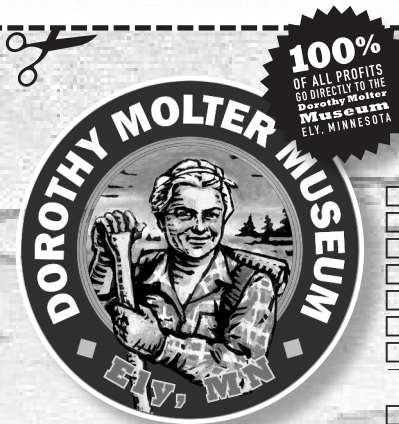
**Membership and Support**

Dorothy Molter Museum Members receive our quarterly newsletter, free admission to the museum, and discounts in both our museum gift shop and our online store.

Are you already a member? Consider making a Donation towards our education programming or general operating expenses. Just fill out the form below!

Thank you.

**Share Our Mission with Someone Special**



Help us inspire the next generation of Northwoods Citizens and Stewards  
**Give a membership to someone you know!**  
**Dorothy Molter Museum Membership Application and Support Form**

**Membership Levels:**

- STUDENT: \$10
- INDIVIDUAL: \$30
- FAMILY: \$50
- PADDLER: \$150
- BUSINESS PADDLER: \$250
- SUSTAINING PADDLER: \$500
- SUSTAINING PATRON: \$1000

**Lifetime Memberships:**

- LIFETIME PADDLER: \$5,000
- LIFETIME PATRON PADDLER: \$10,000

Payment Type:  Check  Credit      Card Type:  Visa  MasterCard      Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OR ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
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P.O. Box 391  
 Ely, MN 55731

218-365-4451  
 www.rootbeerlady.com  
 info@rootbeerlady.com

NAME ON CREDIT CARD \_\_\_\_\_

CARD NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

Checks should be made out to the Dorothy Molter Museum.

Please do not send cash. Mail your application/donation to: Dorothy Molter Museum, PO Box 391, Ely, MN 55731