

## K W I T C H U R B E L I A K I N

NEWSLETTER OF THE DOROTHY MOLTER MUSEUM

FALL 2017



# Root, Root, Root for Root Beer!

Root  
Beer  
Lady

THE MUSICAL



**B**arb Cary Hall, daughter of Bob Cary and long-time museum board member, has penned an original musical production based on the famous Bob Cary book *The Root Beer Lady*. Many people's first introduction to the story of Dorothy Molter was through Bob Cary's book and this summer, Dorothy's story reached new audiences through musical performance starring an all local-Ely cast.

Barb's talent and experience as a musician shines through in several original songs she wrote and scored featured in the musical including *Root Root Root!*, *O Dorothy Molter* and *Dorothy Molter the Root Beer Lady*.

The cast of characters includes a variety of individuals from the book with prominent roles for both a young and mature Dorothy, Dorothy's father, Cap, step-mother, Myrtle and sister, Ruth as well as Bill Berglund, the original owner of the Isle of Pines Resort.

Performances were held at the **Washington Auditorium**

Cast and crew, all residents of the Ely Area.

are for this amazing production.

The Dorothy Molter Museum has been active in assisting Barb through her endeavor and are pleased that there will be another vehicle with which to move Dorothy's story toward new audiences. **Bottle Cap Volunteer Productions** will donate part of the tickets sales back to the Dorothy Molter Museum! 🍷

in Ely the first weekend in August and were received with rave reviews. We look forward to hearing about the future of this musical from Barb and we imagine you do as well. A **Facebook page, Root Beer Lady – The Musical**, was created to keep fans and interested people up to date on what the next steps

To learn more about **Dorothy Molter's** life in the Boundary Waters on Knife Lake, find books (including *The Root Beer Lady*) about Dorothy, and hear any current news about *Root Beer Lady – The Musical* go to:

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

## Message from the Director



Sarah Guy-Levar, Executive Director

Dear Friends of the Dorothy Molter Museum,  
As you peruse this newsletter over the next few minutes I would like you to think about why you are a supporting member of the Dorothy Molter Museum. What is it about her story, your visit to the museum or the taste of an ice cold root beer that inspires you to keep sending in your membership renewals each year? As a small history museum at the end of the road, your support is instrumental in what we do.

I am currently serving my 2nd term as Treasurer of the **Minnesota Association of Museums (MAM)**. After my suggestion and encouragement it was decided to host the MAM Annual Conference in Ely this September. Knowing 70 museums professionals will be visiting the museum for our evening **"Cocktails at the Cabin"** Reception I have begun to look at our buildings, exhibits and landscape with a more discerning eye. And I have to say I really like what I see.

Over the past year we have developed a community pocket park, revamped all of our interpretive signage on the buildings and along our nature trail, and have received press coverage from the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, the *Duluth News Tribune*, *Minnesota Public Radio*, *Duluth Public Television* and *KFAN Radio*. During the first week of August the world premiere of **Root Beer Lady: The Musical**, written and produced by Barb Cary Hall, was held in Ely's Washington Auditorium to nearly sold-out audiences. Next summer we are planning a new exhibit **Creating the Boundary Waters: 25 Objects, 25 Stories** not only to provide a fresh face to the museum to encourage repeat visitation for the museum's 25th anniversary but, more importantly, to highlight the decades-long story that launched Dorothy into the public eye and is a vital part of her legacy.

Why am I a member of the Dorothy Molter Museum (yes I am a paying member!)? Because I have always been moved by Dorothy's story and I firmly believe that the museum's mission to inspire the next generation of Northwoods stewards is important. So, thank you for your support and I hope you, too can continue to remember Dorothy and dedicate your life to live as Dorothy did: in harmony with environment, with great dignity and courage, helping humankind, and making a significant contribution toward a better world. 🐾

## 2017 Museum Internship



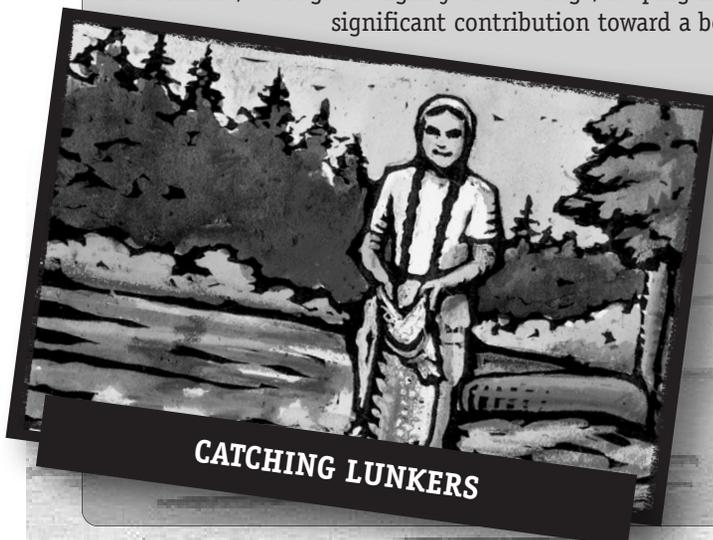
Alex Hilterbrand

Hi! My name is **Alex** and I am currently a student at Vermilion College (VCC) who is studying Wilderness and Park Management. After I finish at VCC, I intend to obtain my four year degree at Bemidji State University

in Bemidji, MN. It is my dream to someday become an interpretive park ranger for the National Park Service and eventually settle into a more permanent position at a state park or possibly the Parks and Trails Division of the MN DNR.

So far my summer internship at the museum has been nothing short of rewarding. Jess and Sarah have both been extremely helpful. They realize my career goals and have pushed me towards new experiences and opportunities that I wouldn't have known about otherwise. From giving guided tours (and mastering the difficult art of interpretation), to leading short nature hikes, to running Camp K every Tuesday, over these past few months I have been able to utilize the things I've learned at VCC as well as expand my skillset. My goal has been to leave guests with a memorable experience and a lasting impression, as I feel that Dorothy's story is one that is worth retelling over and over again. I try to make the themes of independence, resiliency, and living a lifestyle that is true to you stand out to our visitors, and it is my hope that over the summer I am able to inspire at least one person by Dorothy's story. 🐾

**Note:** We know Alex has inspired many visitors to the museum this season. Just look at our comment cards!



Wishing you calm waters with a breeze at your back,  
Sarah Guy-Levar

## 2017 Scholarship Recipient



Hannah Carlson

Hannah Carlson is a student at Vermilion Community College and is pursuing her Associates Degree in Wilderness and Park Management. She is passionate about outdoor activities such as hiking, backpacking, and horseback riding. She knows that these activities all have inherent risks while being in the backcountry, so she has decided to be proactive in case of emergency and become a certified Wilderness First Responder. The Dorothy Molter Memorial Foundation Wilderness First Responders Fund Scholarship is crucial in helping Hannah achieve her goal of being prepared to give aid to outdoor recreationalists by providing funds that she otherwise would have difficulty finding in order to take the WFR class. 🐾

First Responder. The Dorothy Molter Memorial Foundation Wilderness First Responders Fund Scholarship is crucial in helping Hannah achieve her goal of being prepared to give aid to outdoor recreationalists by providing funds that she otherwise would have difficulty finding in order to take the WFR class. 🐾

## Camp KWITCHURBELIAKIN

This summer's Camp K theme was "Leave No Trace" and featured outdoor activities that focused on being a good Northwoods steward. Campers learned about how Dorothy would reuse and repurpose items for practical and aesthetic functions up on the Isle of Pines. 🐾

## Are you a Museum Professional?



MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS

The Minnesota Association of Museums is holding its 2017 Annual Conference in ELY! Whether you are a

MAM member or just a museum enthusiast, the conference theme of Creating Healthy Communities will provide insight and inspiration on providing quality museum experiences to visitors. The conference will be **September 27-29** and will include an **evening reception at the Dorothy Molter Museum**, an Ely Pub Portage and an optional canoe day-trip as part of this professional development opportunity. Registration scholarships are available and there will be **free bus transportation from the Twin Cities!**

For more information on MAM membership, conference proceedings and registration, visit: [www.minnesotamuseums.org/2017conference](http://www.minnesotamuseums.org/2017conference). 🐾

## Fall 2017 at the Museum

Hours: 10:00am – 5:00pm  
Daily through September 10  
Saturday & Sundays September 11-30  
Saturdays in October

## Blueberry Arts & Harvest Moon Festivals



If you've never been to Ely for either the July or September arts festivals you may want to put it on your calendar. Hundreds of vendors apply to be included in these events to showcase their unique product, many of which are hand-crafted. The museum is fortunate to be included as a community non-profit and both festivals provide extra income generated primarily by root beer sales. This fall, the museum is looking for volunteers to help sell raffle tickets and root beer at its Harvest Moon Festival booth September 8-10. If you are interested and able, please call Jess at the museum 218-365-4451. Did we mention volunteers get a free root beer..? 🐾

## Celebrating 25 Years in 2018

Next year marks the 25th Anniversary of the Dorothy Molter Museum on May 6, 2018. Since the first discussion of how to keep Dorothy's memory alive back in 1987, the museum has grown and prospered through not just board and staff leadership but with great support from museum members and visitors who contribute their passion for Dorothy's story. Without this base, the museum would not be celebrating such a milestone. Thank you! 🐾

## Membership Changes Coming Soon

As a member supporter receiving this newsletter, we request that you please take a moment to visit [www.rootbeerlady.com/join](http://www.rootbeerlady.com/join) to review upcoming changes to the Museum's membership program effective January 2018. You may also see this information in all member renewal letters, renewal confirmations, online and at the museum. If you have questions or concerns about these future changes, please feel free to call us at 218-365-4451. 🐾

## Ways to Donate!



For a small, non-profit museum there are never too many ways to contribute! Online donation options are located at [rootbeerlady.com](http://rootbeerlady.com), on our **facebook page**, and by using **Amazon Smile**. Do you prefer to make a tangible donation? Check out our "wish list" on [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) for ideas or donate bird seed to the community bird feeding area. Like to get your hands dirty? Spring cleaning is coming up in May, and there always seems to be things to fix or tidy up around the museum... 🐾

Call or email for more information!  
218-365-4451 or [jess@rootbeerlady.com](mailto:jess@rootbeerlady.com)

K W I T C H U R B E L I A K I N



www.rootbeerlady.com

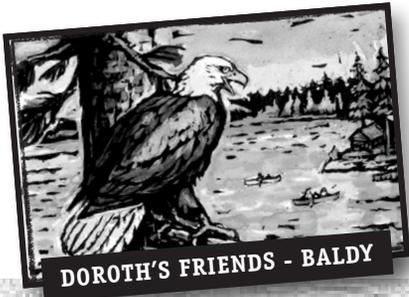
PO Box 391  
Hwy 169 (Sheridan St.) on the east side of Ely  
2002 E Sheridan St. Ely, MN 55731

PLACE  
APPROPRIATE  
POSTAGE  
HERE

**DOROTHY MOLTER MUSEUM BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- Pam Brunfelt, President
- Gil Knight, Vice President
- Sarah J. Foster, Treasurer
- Sherry Abts, Secretary
- Blaine "Butch" Diesslin
- Barb Cary-Hall
- Bill Latady
- Pam Meskan
- Alyssa Nelson
- Bill Tefft

Executive Director: Sarah Guy-Levar  
 Visitor Services Manager: Jess Edberg  
 Finance Manager: Lisa Robbins  
 Graphic Design: Mike Tincher, T DESIGN



SEND THIS NEWSLETTER TO:

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**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.

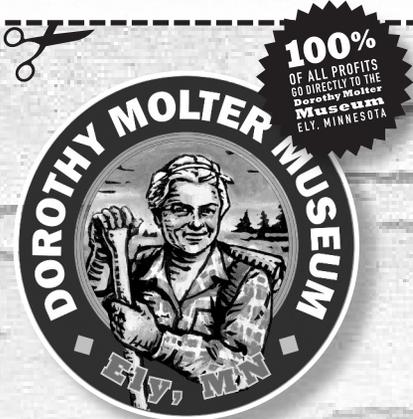
**Membership and Support**

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!

Please visit [www.rootbeerlady.com](http://www.rootbeerlady.com) for details on membership program updates that will be implemented in 2018.

**Share Our Mission with Someone Special**



**Annual Fundraising Raffle for the Dorothy Molter Museum  
CANOE RAFFLE TICKET ORDER FORM**



Valued at \$2600 • Must be 18 to purchase tickets  
Drawing Saturday, October 28, 2015 at 5pm • Need not be present to win

P.O. Box 391  
Ely, MN 55731  
218-365-4451  
www.rootbeerlady.com

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

# OF TICKETS @ \$5/EACH \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

If possible, please include a self-adhesive address label for each ticket purchased.  
Mail this form and check or money order payable to "DMM" to:  
Dorothy Molter Museum, PO Box 391, Ely, MN 55731