



Celebrating Dorothy



The Stanek Family introduced baby Otto to his first dinner while sister Harper attended her third!



VCC student volunteers ready to FUNraise

The organization's annual "plaid tie" event to support the **Dorothy Molter Museum** was Thursday, **February 13** at the **Grand Ely Lodge** and started the **FUNraising** with a social hour that featured door prize drawings, raffle ticket sales and the silent auction.

We are always overwhelmed with the generosity of our friends and neighbors both within and outside of the Ely Area and with over 100 items up for raffle, silent auction bidding or as door prizes, this year did not disappoint! Museum staff, volunteers, Members, vendors, customers and colleagues show amazing support for our little museum in the pines celebrating and sharing the life and legacy of Dorothy Molter.

This year, the Dorothy Molter Museum implemented a big change to its February gathering by including the organization's **Annual Meeting** as part of the event's program. There was a slight concern it would imply that the event would be more formal than in years past, but it did not deter approximately 100 guests and it proved to be a success! All guests were encouraged to participate with the caveat that next year, those who would like to vote during the brief, but important part of the evening would have to be Museum Members. All in all, the meeting lasted less than 15 minutes and offered greater organizational transparency to Museum supporters.

Even the Root Beer was festive



It was a wonderful evening full of fun and **FUNraising**, and we are so thankful for the generosity shown by those who attended, those who donated and those who sent well-wishes.

We can't wait until next year! 🦃

Message from the Director



Dorothy's Director, Jess Edberg.
Social distancing and working from home.

Dear Friends of Dorothy Molter,

At this year's **Annual Meeting & Fundraising Dinner** I revisited how Dorothy's calm strength, ingenuity and perseverance inspires me both at work and in my personal life and how her qualities have continued to motivate me in the face of challenges or obstacles.

I gave a colorful example of the "hot dog incident" from the weekend of our annual Whirlwind! event on February 8 this year. Let's just say that it was a humorous telling (with visual aids) of a series of unfortunate events that occurred during morning set-up and included an Instant Pot and a release of pressurized hot dog water...

Dorothy was definitely on my shoulder that day and my humbling take-aways were 1) that no matter how prepared I think I am, things may go sideways, 2) find humor in a challenging situation, and 3) allow those around me to help.

I think one of the hardest lessons I must keep learning is number 3. As your run-of-the-mill introvert with a hard time delegating, I often feel a need to do it "my way" and on "my time."

However, accepting help is an essential part of operating a small non-profit such as Dorothy's. Although I struggle with this in practice, I am aware of its importance and have been trying to do better at giving more responsibility to staff and engaging more with volunteers.

Volunteerism is selfless, empowering and engaging, it enriches our communities, brings people together and helps businesses and organizations succeed. It's also a freely chosen decision to commit time, skills and energy for the betterment of someone or something else. So, when taken advantage of or taken for granted, the mutual benefits fade and the value of volunteerism with it.

The Dorothy Molter Museum quite literally would not be operating without volunteerism. From the very literal definition of someone providing their service for free to the more nuanced version of a staff member offering up their personal time to help when they are needed.

The Museum would not have organizational leadership, our parking lots would go unplowed, our bird feeders would be left unfilled, and our events would be much more stressful when the hot dog water hits the window if we didn't have volunteerism. In 2019, Museum volunteers logged more than 300 hours of volunteer time.

I would also say that you supporting the Museum with your membership, attending our events, buying raffle tickets, words of encouragement and kind words about the Museum shared with others via word of mouth or on social media, is also a form of volunteerism. I may be stretching the definition but, you are willingly "here" supporting the Museum. I appreciate you, I value you, and I thank you for it.

As we navigate through this unprecedented time, I wish you and yours good health, plenty of social distancing and an opportunity to take time out for self-care both mental and physical. 🐾

With Sincerely, Jess

Optimistically Realistic

As our lives continue to change in unprecedented ways due to COVID-19, the Dorothy Molter Museum sends you positive energy and hopes for your sustained good health. It is likely that at the very least, visitation will be down through June and we are bracing for a lean year while optimistically planning on how to address future challenges.

Be well. 🐾



Distributing Dorothy's

I'm excited to announce the addition of **L&M Fleet Supply** to our account base. A pallet (60 cases) has been ordered and shipped to their Grand Rapids, MN location where they will distribute to their 10 stores in northern Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Best, Laurie – wholesale manager 🐾



2020 Canoe Raffle

Canoe Raffle tickets are now available all year! Get yours now! 🐾

www.rootbeerlady.com

Important Festival Update



Harvest Moon Festival Booth - 2019

The Ely Chamber of Commerce has restructured the vendor categories and eligibility for both the **Blueberry Arts** (July) and **Harvest Moon Festivals** (September), which eliminated the non-profit organization category. We are currently working with the Chamber on a new, concurrent event that would only involve non-profits, but it is in the preliminary development stages.

As of right now, this change will result in a financial loss of approximately \$5,000 in July and \$2,000 in September, which the Museum will have to compensate for elsewhere. We are connecting with other non-profit organizations in Ely who have also experienced this change to investigate alternative and new events that may still take advantage of the tens of thousands of visitors to Ely during those two festivals. However, it will take time and may mean "trimming the fat" in other areas of Museum operations to compensate for this change in revenue-generating events. Although it is a financial hit for the Museum, the biggest loss is

the access to festival goers whom routinely "discover" Dorothy's story at our booth.

You are invited to help offset this change with an additional contribution to our general operating fund, by purchasing additional canoe raffle tickets — we historically sold over 400 during festivals, over twice as many as at the Museum during those same weekends. By purchasing merchandise from the gift shop or online, or by offering your time and skills as a volunteer during special events or as long-term tour guides (if you spend significant time in Ely), or by renewing your membership, every little bit helps and we appreciate your consideration. 🐾

Thank You for helping us Preserve the Legacy

The Museum's Board of Directors and Staff are incredibly grateful for the generous contributions made toward its **"Preserving the Legacy" Capital Campaign and Membership Drive**. A special thank you to the following businesses and individual Members and supporters who have made a charitable contribution to this campaign since our last newsletter!

Donna Arbough	Fortune Bay Resort & Casino	Lynn Meyers	John Schmidt
Gary Berkner	Tower MN	Barb Moore	Paul & Susan Schurke
Stephen & Susan Betcher	Kristine M. Hadrits Trust	Tanya Mueller	Wayne & Susan Shelton
Mary Boyer	Krista & John Harrington	Michael and Pamela Neef	Kurt & Barb Soderberg
Terry Conour	Judy Hunter	Vicki Nelson	Michael Swanson
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Butch & Lucy Diesslin	Karin Kneeland	Katy Popesh	Kim Wheeler
Kathleen Ellerton	River Point Resort, Ely MN	Mercedes Roberson	Margaret Wood
William Graves	Lindsey Lang	Judy & Tom Saeger	

Special Thanks

A very special thank you to the family of **Kristine M. Hadrits** and the **Kristine M. Hadrits Administrative Trust**. Kristine passed in 2018 and her estate directives included a significant contribution to both **Dorothy's Cabin Endowment Fund** and the **Wilderness First Responders Scholarship Fund**. Kristine was a Girl Scout and took several BWCAW canoe trips where she met Dorothy and became interested in her life. As an adult, she became a member of the Dorothy Molter museum to support its work honoring Dorothy and preserving her legacy.

We send our condolences to Kristine's family and friends. 🐾

LOOKING AHEAD

Museum Open for the Season! • Saturday, May 23 at 10am

Brew-it Yourself Classes • Wednesdays beginning in June

Camp KWITCHURBELIAKIN • Tuesdays beginning in June

Dorothy Molter Experience: Women's Canoe Trip • June 23-27 (pre-registration required)

Dorothy Day • Sunday, late-June

Museum Closed • July 4th

Please keep an eye on www.rootbeerlady.com for possible changes to our Museum hours and program dates



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

www.rootbeerlady.com

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SEND THIS NEWSLETTER TO:

Four horizontal lines for entering an email address.



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.

Become a Member or if you are a member **Consider Making a Donation** towards our education programming or general operating expenses.

Go to www.rootbeerlady.com - click on **"Get Involved"**
Thank you.



100%
OF ALL PROFITS
GO DIRECTLY TO THE
Dorothy Molter
MUSEUM
ELY, MINNESOTA



Annual Fundraising Raffle for the Dorothy Molter Museum

CANOE RAFFLE TICKET ORDER FORM

17', 44lb, We-no-na Spirit II, Ultra-light Kevlar® Canoe • Valued at \$2,999



Must be 18+ to purchase tickets • Need not be present to win

Drawing held at the Museum's Annual Meeting & Fundraising Dinner - February 11, 2021

**P.O. Box 391
Ely, MN 55731**

218-365-4451

**www.rootbeerlady.com
info@rootbeerlady.com**

NAME

PHONE (REQUIRED)

OF TICKETS AT \$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