

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

NEWSLETTER OF THE DOROTHY MOLTER MUSEUM

WINTER 2023



Celebrating 30 Years

Did the small group of friends with a vision to keep Dorothy's story and her place in history alive in the minds of others know that they would ignite a flame that has sparked interest and inspiration in tens of thousands of visitors over the course of the last 30 years?

Since the Dorothy Molter Museum opened its doors on **May 6, 1993** – what would have been Dorothy's 86th birthday – the organization and its leaders has evolved from a purely volunteer-run, historic house museum of Dorothy's Winter and Point Cabins into a staffed, educational and historic facility with three cabin exhibits, a nature trail, interpretive center with gift shop (and an indoor public bathroom), and a community pocket park available year-round for bird-watching.

The Dorothy Molter Memorial Foundation would not be what it is today doing business as the **Dorothy Molter Museum**

if it wasn't for that group of friends of Dorothy's. They took their vision and coordinated a massive 100% volunteer salvage project, collaborated with local government and businesses to obtain assistance to secure land and in-kind support to rebuild Dorothy's cabins, and then dedicated their time, skill and energy to offer tours to visitors once the project was complete.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to this group of friends, these **Dorothy's Angels**, who took a story and made a legacy.



Director's Message



Dorothy's Director, Jess Edberg.

As I mentioned in last summer's newsletter...

What a testament to Dorothy's impact on others that we are celebrating **30 Years** of mission-driven historic interpretation at the **Dorothy Molter Museum**.

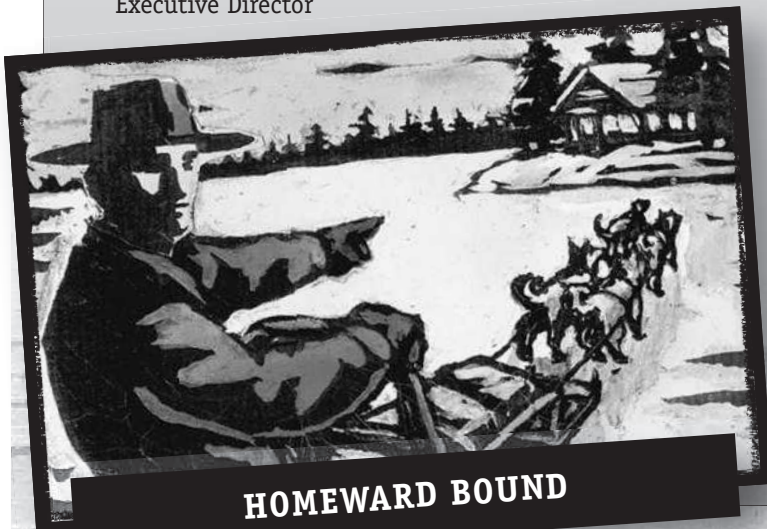
From what started as a group of dedicated volunteers, many (if not all) of whom were friends of Dorothy's, offering first-person oral histories, we now employ a passionate group of seasonal

employees who derive their tour content not only from those early volunteers, but the Museum's rich collection of historic resources. That collection was originally built through the hard work of the Museum founders who coordinated the initial 1987 volunteer salvage effort to preserve the physical objects representing Dorothy's story. It continues to grow through the many friends, relatives and acquaintances of Dorothy's who have and continue to donate or share objects, papers, letters, photos and videos with the Museum.

As the Museum collection expands, the access to it continues to evolve as well. Once only accessible by visiting the Museum, technology has made our collection within reach to almost anyone with an interest. Museum staff and internet storytellers such as the news media and users of social media have helped take Dorothy's story global. Starting this spring, the Museum's collection database of thousands of items will also be available at the click of a button when we move from a software-based database system to a web-based collections catalogue. While we can't promise that every single record will be available to the public, we are very excited to finally have **Dorothy's Guest Books** available in digital form. It will still require a little work to "find your name" when looking but, now you won't have to visit the Museum to try. More information on this new database will be showcased at the **Annual Fundraising Dinner** on **February 9** at the **Grand Ely Lodge**.

I sure hope you can make it! 🐾

Happy New Year,
Jess Edberg
Executive Director



HOMeward BOUND

Annual Fundraising Dinner February 9

We are pleased to be returning to our traditional in-person **Annual Fundraising Dinner** this year at the **Grand Ely Lodge**. Once again, guests will enjoy a cash bar, delicious buffet dinner with dessert, a brief message from our director with exciting **Museum Updates** and **FUNdraising!**

We'll have several items only available at the dinner via raffle buckets with the majority of items available via our online silent auction that will begin on **February 1** at **12:15am** at:

www.32auctions.com/DMM2023
and end **February 9** at **6:30pm** - during the event.

Door prizes will be drawn throughout the dinner and our **Annual Canoe Raffle** will be drawn at the end of the evening at **7pm**. 🐾

Dinner tickets are available online at: www.rootbeerlady.com/programs-events, by calling the Museum at: 218.365.4451 or by emailing: info@rootbeerlady.com. We hope to see you there!

Thank You

With your support just over \$3,000 was raised on **Give to the Max Day** in November to fund the new root beer exhibit in the **Winter Cabin**. Thank you to all who donated directly and/or shared the request via friends, family and social media. We couldn't have done it without you!

Special thanks to our **Lifetime** and **Patron Members** who donated funds to help the Museum purchase 20 wooden canoe paddles to replace unsalvageable ones and create new ones on our **Member Paddle Fences**, as well as marine grade varnish to seal and preserve those paddles. Your legacy with the Museum lives on. 🐾

The Root Beer Lady

MN History Theatre, St. Paul, MN
January 28-Feb 19, 2023



Jan 28 thru Feb 19
history theatre

St. Paul, MN

historically accurate as possible for the May 2021 Zoom performance, and to participate in their Zoom **TALKBACK** (audience Q&A). This year, Schultz's amazing interpretation of Dorothy's life is available live at the Theatre in St. Paul! The Museum is proud to support this production and will be attending the **Sundays, February 12 and 19 AFTERTHOUGHTS** post-show talk. 🐾

For performance and ticket information, please visit:
www.historytheatre.com/2022-2023/root-beer-lady

The Root Beer Lady The Musical

Ely State Theater, Ely, MN
September 7-10, 2023

This one-act musical written by Barb Cary Hall is based on her father Bob Cary's well-known book "Root Beer Lady" and tells Dorothy's unique and inspiring story through song, dance and narration. Hall's first iterations of this production were in 2016 and 2017, and she returns with an updated script and fresh local faces. The Museum is ecstatic to support Hall's BottleCap Volunteer Productions, as well as the Ely State Theater for bringing this musical back to life and offering such a unique opportunity for audiences to learn about Dorothy Molter. 🐾

Root
Beer
Lady
THE MUSICAL



Tickets are set to go on sale in July. Inquiries about the musical may be sent to the **Root Beer Lady—the Musical Facebook Page**.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Online Silent Auction Opens** • Wednesday, February 1 – 12:15am
- Whirlwind! Winter Wilderness Community Event** • Saturday, February 4 – 11am-2pm
- Annual Fundraising Dinner (Grand Ely Lodge)** • Thursday, February 9 – 5-7pm
- Meeting of the Members BBQ** • Friday, May 5 – 6:30pm
- Annual Spring Clean-up & Dorothy's Birthday Party** • Saturday, May 6 – 10am-1pm
- BWX: Women's Canoe Trip (BWCAW)** • June 13-17 (3 seats left at time of printing)
- Dorothy Day** • June 25 – 11am-2pm
- Donuts at Dorothy's** • June 25 – 11am-2pm
- Supporter Appreciation Day** • August 13 – 11am-2pm

Please keep an eye on www.rootbeerlady.com for additional details, programs and events being added.

Stay Connected



Follow us on **Facebook**, **Instagram** and **Twitter** to stay connected and receive regular updates on what's happening, new products, upcoming events, as well as featured collection items and themes, historic photos and interesting stories from days gone by. 🐾

Call or email for more information!
218-365-4451
or jess@rootbeerlady.com



PO Box 391
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2002 E Sheridan St. Ely, MN 55731

www.rootbeerlady.com

DOROTHY MOLTER MUSEUM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Finance Manager: Lisa Robbins
Dorothy illustrations by Nora Wildgen
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 newsletters, 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.

Canoe Raffle - February 9th, 2023



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 \$3,149



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

Drawing held at the Museum's Annual Meeting & Fundraising Dinner – February 9, 2023
Tickets available by postal mail until February 8
and in-person at the dinner February 9 until the drawing.

**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