

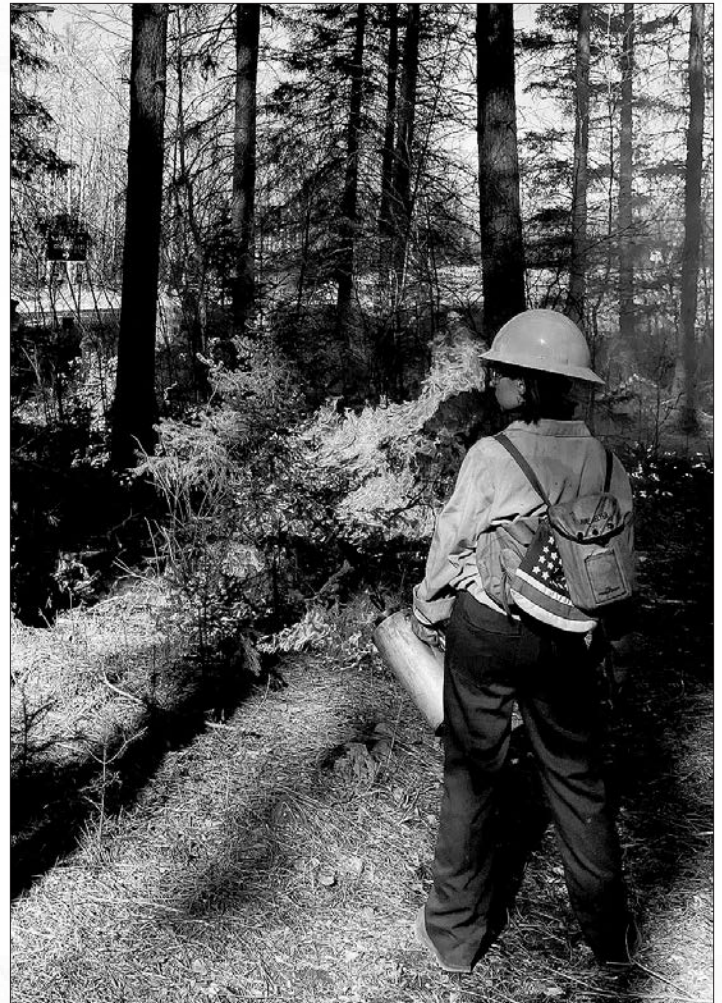
## Controlled Burn Part of Museum's E-Plan

Over the past year and a half, Museum staff have been engaging in disaster response training for heritage organizations (think FEMA for historic collections) in an effort to not only better prepare the **Dorothy Molter Museum** for possible disasters (wildfire, electrical fire, water leak, etc) but also the heritage preservation community of Ely. A large part of preparing for a disaster is prevention.

This spring, the Museum collaborated with **MN North College – Vermilion Campus** forestry students under the direction of instructor **Ryan Miller**, retired U.S. Forest Service fire expert, **Timo Rova** and the **Ely Fire Department** to conduct a controlled burn of approximately 2-2.5 acres of pine underbrush in the area of **Dorothy's Discover Trail**, about 50 feet east of the historic cabins. The burn took place on March 11 and successfully reduced fuels such as pine needles, small balsam trees and other underbrush 4 feet or shorter by approximately 75 percent.

**A controlled burn so close to the cabins?! It may seem crazy, but a controlled burn is a very choreographed process with well-defined roles for all involved as well as multiple safe-guards such as digging fire breaks in the ground and having fire engines on standby.**

By burning off the majority of underbrush, we've reduced the amount of **"food for a fire"** should a wildfire break out near Ely this season, or next. With the dry winter and lack of snow in northeastern Minnesota, it is a precaution worth taking. 🐾



### Organizational Updates

In addition to increased disaster heritage response training, the Museum has completed a full review and update to its **Emergency Plan**. This included a tour of the Museum facility by the **Ely Fire Department** to familiarize department members/volunteers with the property, priority collection item locations and fire-fighting resources on-site.

Additional updates are underway on the **Museum's 5-year Strategic Plan** and initial planning for updating the **Museum's Interpretive Plan**.

If you would like a copy of any of the Museums organizational plans, please contact **Jess Edberg** at [jess@rootbeerlady.com](mailto:jess@rootbeerlady.com). 🐾

## Director's Message



Dorothy's Director, Jess Edberg at Dorothy's Ribbon Rock on The Isle of Pines in Knife Lake.

and fellow community members during her time on the **Isle of Pines**. Likewise, the early days of the Museum relied on the help of community volunteers' time, energy and sweat equity. I'd like to ask you to be a part of Dorothy's legacy and help the Museum return the favor to our community neighbors with a little extra support this season.

If you can't make it to Ely this year, supporting Ely businesses online and via their social channels makes a difference too! 🐾

Thank you for being part of the Museum,  
Jess Edberg  
Executive Director

This past "off season" has been quite different from others. Lack of snow put a damper on tourism activity in Ely and created hardship for many snow-based recreation outfitters such as the dogsled touring businesses and the lodging businesses who didn't have the winter enthusiast clients coming to Ely — and as a result all of the other businesses in town that rely on winter tourism.

Although the Museum has very limited hours during the **Ely Winter Festival** each winter, we noticed the difference when local wholesale root beer customers didn't need as much root beer. Although, the impact on the Museum was a fraction of what those other businesses felt.

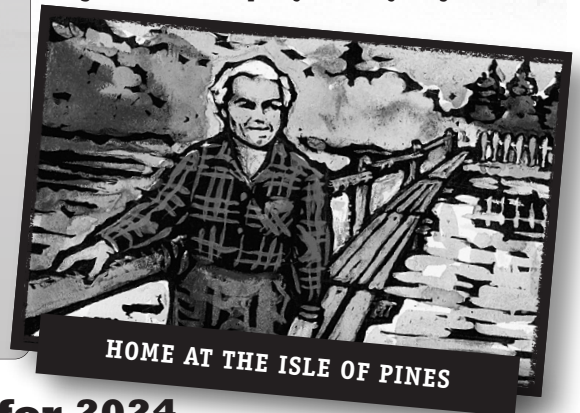
Ely was Dorothy's community, albeit quite a few miles from her physical house, and she relied on the mutual assistance of her friends

## Annual Meeting of the Members

Once again, we will be hosting our annual meeting on Dorothy's birthday, Monday, May 6th. As a Member in good standing, you are invited to join the Board of Directors in reviewing fiscal year 2023. The Museum will be open for exploration starting at 5:30pm with the buffet meal (type to be determined) starting at 6:00pm and the meeting's official call to order once all present have received food (6:15-30pm).

This free event does require an RSVP so we can plan seating and food. If you'd like to attend, you may register at: [www.root-beerlady.com/programs-events](http://www.root-beerlady.com/programs-events), call 218-365-4451 or email [info@root-beerlady.com](mailto:info@root-beerlady.com).

If you are unable to attend but would like to participate, please return the marked, signed and dated proxy letter by **May 4**. 🐾



## New Visitor Resources for 2024

Last summer the **Museum's three interns** researched and developed an **Accessibility Proposal** that would improve the Museum experience for all visitors with a special emphasis on resources helpful for neurodivergent visitors, or those who have varied sensory needs in public spaces.

The overarching goal of this project is to make the **Dorothy Molter Museum** a more welcoming and accessible space to all visitors by both using existing and new resources to create sensory-friendly spaces and experiences. We've already worked with Dorothy Molter documentary producer **Judy Hadel Morrissey** to improve the closed-captioning quality on the **Living in the Boundary Waters** 15min exhibit video in our **Point Cabin Exhibit**.

Elements of this project that are on track to be ready for our **May 25 Opening** this spring include digital resources for pre-visit preparation such as a video depicting a Museum visit from a first-person perspective, a printable and downloadable social narrative depicting different Museum environments, social guidelines, and visitor expectations, and a printable and downloadable communication and scheduling card with

Museum-related words and phrases.

Additionally, the Museum is repurposing an existing planter boat to create a sensory garden within a designated "**quiet space**," add two ADA and two child-sized picnic tables, and establish a resource sensory bag for visitors and their families to use while visiting the museum.

Virtual staff training via the **Museum, Arts and Culture Access Consortium** and the **Autism Society of Minnesota** will complement these new resources and further expand the understanding of our visitor needs moving forward.

The Museum is also communicating with the **North American Bear Center** and the **International Wolf Center** to collaborate on offering sensory-friendly appointments for visitors with sensory needs and their families.

Funding for this project is supported by a matching grant from the **Minnesota Department of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation**, and generous donors who helped us surpass our goal of \$2,500 matching funds during our **November 2023 Give to the Max Day** online fundraiser. 🐾



**The Dorothy Molter Memorial Foundation, Inc.  
Proxy for the 2023 Calendar Year Annual Meeting of the Members \*\***

This proxy is solicited on behalf of the Board of Directors from Members who cannot attend in person.

The undersigned hereby appoints, and, or any one or more of them, as proxies to represent the undersigned at the Annual Meeting of Members of the Dorothy Molter Memorial Foundation, Inc., to be held at 6:15 p.m. on Monday, May 6, 2024 at the Dorothy Molter Museum in Ely, MN, and at any adjournments thereof, and to vote upon all subjects that properly come before the meeting, subject to any directions indicated below. If no directions are given, the proxies will vote for the election of all listed nominees and, at the proxies' discretion, on any other matters that may properly come before the meeting.

**1. Update to Bylaws includes the following:**

**Revision of Article VI. Officers to maintain consistent language throughout organization:**

1. *The officers shall be a Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary.*

\_\_\_ Approve \_\_\_ Reject

**Addition of an Emergency Planning & Response Committee to Article VIII: Committees**

*E. Emergency Planning & Response Committee*

1. *The Emergency Planning & Response Committee shall consist of four (4) members including the Executive Director.*  
2. *The Emergency Planning & Response Committee is responsible for being a part of the Emergency Response Team in the case of a disaster/emergency at the Museum requiring the implementation of the Museum's Emergency Plan*
- *Emergency Response Team roles include but are not limited to: Incident Response Team Leader, Salvage Officer, Safety Officer and Security Officer*

\_\_\_ Approve \_\_\_ Reject

**2. Election of Members of the Board of Directors – To serve a 3-Year Term: May 6, 2024 – May 6, 2027**

\_\_\_ Nancy Outcalt (new nominee)

Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

*Write in candidate election dependent upon candidate accepting the nomination.*

**3. Election of Officers of the Foundation**

**– To serve a 1-Year Term expiring at the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Members – May 6, 2025.**

**CHAIR – Vote for ONE (1)**

\_\_\_ Pam Brunfelt (incumbent)

Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

**VICE CHAIR – Vote for ONE (1)**

\_\_\_ Alyssa Richards (incumbent)

Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

**SECRETARY – Vote for ONE (1)**

\_\_\_ Sherry Abts (incumbent)

Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

**TREASURER – Vote for ONE (1)**

Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

*Write in candidate election dependent upon candidate accepting the nomination.*

**The undersigned hereby acknowledges receipt of the Notice of Annual Meeting and the proxy.**

**Please sign and date before returning.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name Printed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return your signed and dated proxy by 12:00pm on May 4 to:**

Dorothy Molter Memorial Foundation  
P.O. Box 391 Ely, MN 55731-0391

*\*\* Proxies for Student, Individual, Family, Business or Paddler Members are valid, subject to being a paid Member in good standing. Dues may be included with a properly executed proxy or when RSVPing to the event online.*



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

**DOROTHY MOLTER MUSEUM BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Pam Brunfelt, President  
Alyssa Nelson, Vice Chair  
Sherry Abts, Secretary  
Liz Gorrilla  
Pam Meskan  
Trudy Staubitz  
Linda Weidmann  
Bobbi Zenner  
Nancy Outcalt (nominee)

Executive Director: Jess Edberg  
Finance Manager: Lisa Robbins

Dorothy illustrations by Nora Wildgen

2024 Visitor Services Assts: Kay Vandervort,  
Rena Johnston

2024 Curator Manager Internship: Jessica Hunt

2024 Visitors Services Internship Staff: Ethan Johnson,  
Julia Vogt, Choe Wahlstrom

Graphic Design: Mike Tischer, T DESIGN



MAKING THE ROUNDS

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

**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.**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**Dorothy Day Open House** • June 23 – 11am–2pm (free)

**Root Beer: History You Can Taste Class** • Thursdays, June 27 – Aug 15 at the Ely Folk School (pre-reg required)

**Donuts at Dorothy’s Open House** • July 28 – 11am-2pm (free, during the Blueberry/Arts Fest)

**Supporter Appreciation Day Open House** • August 18 – 11am-2pm (free)

**Museum Root Beer/Beer Tent Fundraiser & Dorothy’s Root Beer Run Kid’s Marathon** • September 20 & 21

Please keep an eye on [www.rootbeerlady.com](http://www.rootbeerlady.com) for additional details, programs and events being added.

**Museum Hours 2024**

May 25 – September 2 – Open Daily, 10am-5pm • July 4 – Closed

September 3–30 – Open Friday-Sunday, 10am-4pm • October 1–31 – Open Friday-Saturday, 10am-4pm

**Stay Connected**



To maximize our budget, we are using digital marketing as much as possible. If you are not currently on our email list for **Monthly Updates on Museum Hours, Events, Classes, New Products** or other newsworthy items, please join by reaching out to **Jess** at [jess@rootbeerlady.com](mailto:jess@rootbeerlady.com)

or sign up online at [www.rootbeerlady.com](http://www.rootbeerlady.com) — on the **Museum Home Page**. You can also follow us on **Facebook, Instagram, and X** for regular updates as well as featured collection items and themes, historic photos and interesting stories from days gone by. 🐾