

SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS
HISTORY
CENTER

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SDHC ROLLS OUT NEW HOLIDAY ORNAMENT
HONORING RESTORED ROOT BEER BARREL

NOV. 22, 2019 -- Just in time for the holidays, Saugatuck-Douglas History Center is rolling out a newly commissioned collectible holiday ornament commemorating the restoration and reopening of Douglas' historic Root Beer Barrel. The ornament will be introduced exclusively at the Saugatuck Holiday Market on Saturday, November 30 at the Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St. in Saugatuck, and available after that at the Old School House, 150 Center St. in Douglas.

This 4-inch-tall hanging ornament is hand-crafted in Poland and continues Douglas' tradition of celebrating its historic structures as "old-world" Christmas decorations. It replicates the Barrel in blown glass, hand-painted in brilliant shades of redwood, deep brown, and silver. The entrance door, serving windows (complete with support chains) and steel rims are all detailed.

The iconic Root Beer Barrel holds fond memories for local residents and visitors alike. Its 17-foot tall structure was a popular concession stand, selling root beer and foot-long hot dogs from the 1950s to the mid-1970s. It then sat dormant and deteriorating until 2011 when it was slated for demolition.

Members of the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center and the Friends of the Barrel community group joined forces, raising funds to save the Barrel. Volunteers cleaned out and dismantled the structure, then sanded, repaired, refinished, and where necessary replaced the barrel's 120 curved redwood staves. In 2018 it was reassembled with new metalwork and reopened at the corner of Center and Ferry Streets in Douglas, to become once again a popular destination for root beer, hot dogs and fun.

For more information about the History Center, its Museum in Saugatuck and Old School House in Douglas, and its activities planned for the months ahead, visit www.MySDHistory.org.

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PHOTO ATTACHED SEPARATELY (see jpeg "BarrelOrnament")

Caption: Commemorative Root Beer Barrel ornament rolls out on Nov. 30