

SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS  
**HISTORY**  
CENTER

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SDHC HOSTS WINTERFEST SLED DOG PROGRAM  
AT THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE SATURDAY, FEB. 29

FEB. 21, 2020 -- A free, public sled dog exhibition offers an afternoon of family fun at the Old School House, 130 Center St. in Douglas, sponsored by Saugatuck-Douglas History Center during the town's 2020 Winterfest on Saturday, February 29, from Noon to 3pm. Local sled dog enthusiast Terry Perysian will have his trained Siberian Huskies ready for petting and photo-ops, and will conduct demonstrations with authentic dog-race sleds.

While visiting the Old School House, Winterfest guests also are invited to stay and enjoy two free, special art exhibits.

"Rediscovering a Michigan Painter", which opened on Feb. 15, showcases the Saugatuck artwork of Robert Fort (1875-1954) with fifteen paintings evoking memories of community life in mid-century, many of which reflect the view from his front porch on Griffith Street.

Perhaps best remembered locally for creating a 16-ft sailboat prototype called *Papoose*, which was used in competitions at the Saugatuck Yacht Club beginning in 1934, Fort *the artist* has faded into history, and this exhibit seeks to reintroduce him as one of Michigan's great painters.

"Cody's World", which opened last August, celebrates the life and works of noted Saugatuck artist/teacher Cora Bliss Taylor (1889-1986). Recently augmented with six more paintings, this exhibit highlights two rare large murals done by Taylor's students in the 1950s, surrounded by a selection of her work in various media and styles, from landscapes to abstracts.

Known to family and friends as "Cody", she came to Saugatuck in 1931, opened Taylor Art Gallery and Taylor School of Art, and served as art director for Saugatuck Chamber of Commerce. A member of the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts and Letters since 1941, she taught her last class in 1980, at age 91.

In addition, Old School House visitors will find a new supply of SDHC's Douglas Root Beer Barrel holiday ornaments, which sold out in record time early last December, prompting many requests for more. Also available is a limited supply of the commemorative SS Keewatin book that was introduced last October in celebration of the ship's 112th anniversary and its significance to both Canada and the U.S.

For more information about Douglas' Winterfest activities, visit [www.douglasmichigan.com/calendar/douglas-winterfest/](http://www.douglasmichigan.com/calendar/douglas-winterfest/). 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](http://www.MySDHistory.org).

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PHOTO ATTACHED SEPARATELY (see jpeg "PettingLine")

Caption:

Terry Perysian's Siberian Huskies, seen enjoying kids' attention at last year's Winterfest sled dog event, return to the Old School House on Saturday, Feb. 29