

SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS
HISTORY
CENTER

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SDHC'S "HISTORY HOP" ON JULY 4TH WEEKEND
GIVES TOWN VISITORS WINDOWS INTO THE PAST

JUNE 27, 2020 -- Folks enjoying downtown Saugatuck and Douglas during the July 4th weekend (Friday through Sunday) will discover an extra treat waiting among ten storefronts specially dressed with "pop-up" exhibits celebrating our community's rich history.

Dubbed the towns' first "History Hop," created and placed by Saugatuck-Douglas History Center in partnership with Saugatuck-Douglas Area Business Association (SDABA), the displays draw documentation and photos from SDHC archives to highlight events and attractions that offer both residents and visitors a stronger sense of how local cultural character and vacation appeal have evolved.

Viewers are invited to discover each display as they stroll, shop and dine in both Saugatuck and Douglas. For added adventure, they may download the SDHC's mobile app by scanning QR (quick response) barcodes from display posters, to discover more about the area's history and follow self-guided walking tours through the twin cities.

This new, volunteer-powered effort took shape in response to the shutdown of businesses and public venues that was instituted statewide to combat the spread of Covid-19. Given recent polling that suggested some may still be wary of visiting indoor spaces, an SDHC team proposed engaging the SDABA business development association in a public history partnership. Their plan focussed on reinvigorating currently unoccupied business shopfronts as focal points of historical interest, using existing materials from past exhibits at SDHC's Pump-House Museum in Saugatuck and Old School House in downtown Douglas.

During the History Hop weekend, from Noon to 4pm each day, SDHC volunteers will present a pop-up history display on the Old School House front lawn at 130 Center St. in Douglas. The public is invited to stop by, grab a free cold water bottle, stroll the grounds of the Back-in-Time Garden, and explore the Boat House shipwreck exhibit. Guests also will be encouraged to submit ideas for planned and potential future exhibits.

Walking maps will be available to learn more about the places, people and events that shaped community history. In addition, the 2020 SDHC holiday ornament will be introduced for sale at the pop-up display, along with a great book chronicling the people and businesses that created Saugatuck.

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 "HistoryHopArt")

Caption: SDHC volunteer John Kerr arranges historical Oval Beach photos for one of 10 storefront exhibits in the July 4 weekend "History Hop".