

Columbia Historical Society

Newsletter and Calendar Winter - Spring 2008

Happy New Year to all, may it be prosperous and healthy. Now as Columbia starts its third century, take a moment to look back at the last year. A very heart felt Thank You to everyone that helped in any way during Columbia's Bicentennial. A list of some of our accomplishments as follows: interesting programs that were well attended; open houses; a book published; we restarted the Citizen of the Year in cooperation with Columbia Chamber of Commerce. On December 7, 28 class rooms from Columbia schools grades 2 through 8 toured our pioneer camp and Bronson Museum, a minimum of 560 children. The next day there was a History Tour that also included the Baptist Church, Methodist Church and Town Hall which was open to all.

A couple of comments and observations from December 7th, the 4th graders noticed that the living room rug had been sewn. The third grade went back to school to have birthday cake and sing Happy Birthday Columbia. We really had good luck with the weather that weekend.

The officers for 2008:

President - Mary Melnyk

Secretary - Jim Hitchcock

Corr. Secy - Debi Hitchcock

V. Pres. - Sally Stone

Treasurer - Dave Burnett

Webmaster - Barbara Hitchcock

The officers met on January 8 to make plans for the coming year. In keeping with the new century for Columbia the officers decided to make a couple of changes for our meetings. **The Gathering Time will be 7:00 P.M.** A volunteer to make the coffee on February 12 is needed also anyone that might provide cookies or snack please contact Mary. Volunteers for the March meeting may sign up at the February meeting. The second change is that the **program will begin at 7:30**, with the meeting to follow. The third innovation will be **Name Tags**, they are plastic clip on. We also set the dates for clean up/sorting at Bronson House, the open houses dates as well as setting up programming for the meetings

Sunday Open Houses at Bronson Museum - the hours for the monthly open houses will be 2 - 4 P.M. Homecoming in June will have extended hours. Last year when we had special displays at Bronson we did have increased attendance. We would like volunteers for the monthly open houses, for example if someone has a collection and would be willing to share a few examples and their knowledge. The collection does not have to be Columbia related. Perhaps someone has done research and can add to our stories about Columbia. Mary Ellen Jenkins hopes that "We Remember Stories of Columbia Township Vol. II" will be out this summer.

Mark Your Calendar

February 12, Columbia Town Hall Gather for social time 7:00 Program 7:30

School History - Last winter Sharon Waldecker, Jim Hart and Mary Melnyk spent several mornings at the Columbia Board of Education Building reading the minutes. Sharon & Mary will tell about some of the interesting discoveries they made. For example how much was a teacher paid per month in 1914. Chas. Chislow was paid to clean an out house in Dec. 1914. In 1916 the B. of E. approached the Baptist Church to buy land for a proposed new school. Jim is out west where it is warm but left the charts on levy's, members of the board, and locations of the one room schools.

March 11, Columbia Town Hall Gather for social time 7:00 - Program 7:30

Bob Wittmus - Some firearm history in Columbia. Bits and pieces gathered from here and there.

Saturday March 29 - Bronson House clean up - the Christmas decorations are down but need to be packed away. Perhaps there will be time for sorting also. 9- 11 A.M.

April 6, Pot Luck - This is a Sunday - Columbia Town Hall Gather 12:30 eat at 1:00

A Time to Reminisce: This is an idea from John Metter and Mary Ellen Jenkins. Let us ask residents or former residents that lived in Columbia in the first half of the 20th Century to tell stories of people, places or events. Younger people with stories related to them by family, friends and neighbors welcome also. Bring a dish to share and your own table service.

Saturday April 26 - Spring clean up at Bronson House or research & cataloging. 9 - 11A.M.

Sunday May 4 - Bronson House Open House 2 - 4 P.M.

May 13, Columbia Town Hall Gather at 7:00 - Program - 7:30

The People of the Greenhouses of Columbia Township. Dave Burnett and Betty Gricar will get us started. We want to know who worked where, what they did. Our green house book focused on the How it all worked, Fred loved boilers. Now we need the rest of the story. So if you know any of the folks who worked in the Greenhouses or family members with stories handed down ask them to join us that night.

Saturday May 17 - Bronson House Get ready for school tours. 9 - 11 A.M.

Sunday June 8 - Bronson House Open House 2 - 4 P.M. Engine Show weekend

No Meeting in June since this is Homecoming

June 27 - 29 Homecoming Booth in the Park, Bronson House open time TBD

Sunday July 20 - We are thinking of an outing to Strongsville Historical Society Village

Sunday August 3 and Sunday September 7 will also be Bronson House Open House.

Name(s) _____ Dues \$5. single _____

Address _____ 2 in family \$ 8. _____

Email _____

If you know you can help on a certain date please mark.

Help Clean up / sorting _____ Open House _____

Homecoming _____ Other _____