NBAHS 38th Annual Meeting
To Be Held April 26, 2018

The New Brighton Area Historical Society’s (NBAHS) Thirty-eighth Annual Meeting will be held Thursday, April 26, at 2:00 PM at the New Brighton Community Center, 400 10th St. NW, New Brighton.

The topic for our annual meeting presentation is “The Twin Cities Arsenal and How it Impacted the Development of New Brighton Area.”

This program is co-sponsored by Ramsey County Library, and funded by Minnesota’s Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund.

Free admission. The public is invited. Please join us! Refreshments will be served. For more information, see our poster on page 2.

21st Annual Rhubarb Fest
June 3: 1:00 - 4:00 PM
New Brighton History Center

The 21st Annual Rhubarb Fest, sponsored by the New Brighton Area Historical Society, continues to honor the Hipp Family and those who worked the 40 acres of rhubarb on Joe Hipp’s Lakeside Berry Farm. Come and enjoy homemade rhubarb desserts or purchase homemade rhubarb jam, rhubarb stalks, plants, and cookbooks.

The Rhubarb Pull will be at Nathe’s farm on Saturday, June 2, from 9:00 AM to noon. We can use help. Contact Jerry Bensing for details at 651-633-6275.

New Brighton Area Historical Society Website:
www.newbrightonhistory.com

We continue to see an increase in users to our website. On April 10, 2017, there were 7176 hits. On April 9, 2018, there were 9434 hits. Go to our site for lots of interesting information and photos concerning the history of the New Brighton area.

Visit our New Brighton History Center in the summer starting on June 5. Hours are 1:00 - 4:00 PM on Saturdays & Sundays until the end of September. Join us!
The Twin Cities Ordnance Plant (later known as the Twin Cities Arsenal) played a key role in helping the United States and its Allies win World War II and in shaping the development of northern Ramsey County. The property’s rapid transformation from farm fields into an industrial complex employing more than 25,000 men and women at its peak in 1943 was called a miracle.

The New Brighton Area Historical Society invites you to join us for a special program on the Twin Cities Arsenal during World War II.

SEE
- New Brighton’s Role in World War II
- Wartime Sacrifices for the Nation
- How the Arsenal Transformed New Brighton

April 26, 2018 2:00-3:00 PM
New Brighton Community Center

Funded by the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund

FREE ADMISSION BEVERAGES DESSERTS
WE NEED HELP!

The following offices for the New Brighton Area Historical Society, 2017-2018, will be voted on at the April 27 Annual Meeting: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Directors. We are gathering names now for our slate of officers, which will be presented that afternoon. Please contact Peg Joyce at 651-633-4070 if you’re interested in becoming one of our directors or officers.

Meet Mark Haidet, New Board Member

We are pleased to welcome our newest NBAHS board member, Mark Haidet.

Mark is a professional historian that helped craft the Minnesota Historical Society into what it is today. He spent 36 years at MNHS as Director of Development leading capital campaigns for the Society. He then transitioned into the Senior Development Officer for the Minnesota State Fair Foundation.

The NBAHS has already realized his amazing talent and look forward to a long association with Mark.

NBAHS Book Sales Continue

Are we still selling our books? Of course, and here’s where: New Brighton City Hall and Community Center, Beisswenger’s Hardware and at the New Brighton History Center, (summers only). To date we have sold all but 34 of the green book by Gene Skiba. We have sold 656 of the red book, 1880s-1950s, and 467 of the blue book, 1950s-2000s. You can download our book flyer at: www.newbrightonhistory.com > NBAHS History Books.
NBAHS Receives Legacy Grant for Security Assessment

In January, the New Brighton Area Historical Society won a $5000 Legacy Fund Grant from the Minnesota Historical Society to assess the security needs of the depot museum and its surroundings in Long Lake Regional Park. Currently there is a working security system; however, the grant will allow the society’s Board of Directors to identify the latest security measures for preserving and protecting the area’s legacy.

The security assessment will be completed with the professional services of Layne Consultants International, which provides security services for the Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS). This project will identify ways to implement the latest in security technology and procedures to maintain the collection of archival, audiovisual, photographic, digital materials, and physical objects housed at the New Brighton History Center; the security of NBAHS Board members who operate and maintain the center, as well as our visitors; and the security of the history center itself. The assessment will also identify the implementation needed to meet professional standards for conservation and preservation of our collections, and the historic character of the museum, while keeping our collections and facility accessible to the public.

The members of the full NBAHS Board of Directors will participate with current Board President David Peterson as the project director.

This project is essential to NBAHS’s mission to discover, preserve, and disseminate of knowledge of the history of New Brighton and the surrounding area of Mounds View Township. We are celebrating the 38th year since incorporation in 1980. The New Brighton History Center is housed in the Bulwer Junction Depot building, the 1887 wood frame railroad depot that is the oldest and most significant surviving representation of the important role that railroads and stockyards played in the early history and development of the area. We received a Celebrate MN 1990 grant to renovate the depot, and with major renovations completed, it was opened to the public in 1995 as the New Brighton History Museum in Long Lake Regional Park. A major exhibit at the center is the 1950 Great Northern steel caboose installed on the museum grounds. Renovation of the caboose was completed in 2016 at a total cost of about $8000 plus some 700 hours of volunteer labor.

NBAHS completed a General Assessment and Long-Term Planning project with a Legacy Fund Grant ($5000) in 2016, which identified security as a priority for our organization and facility. In August 2017, our Board of Directors met with Joe Hoover (Program Associate, Grants and Local History Services, MNHS), who visited the center and gave us input for preparing our proposal for the grant we received in January 2018.

Layne Consultants International will conduct the security assessment, including security training requirements for our board members. Layne visit the history center in order to evaluate existing facilities, grounds, operations, access, electronic systems, staffing, and security. Layne will meet with the Board to discuss the organization’s short-term and long-range security program goals. Layne’s assessment will include review of physical and electronic security systems, monitoring, and emergency communications, as well as NBAHS emergency preparedness and evaluation of staffing, staff security responsibilities, and cooperation between staff, volunteers, community members, area cultural institutions, and local emergency agencies. NBAHS will use the results to implement improvements to the center’s security system as soon as possible. Watch future newsletters and our website for updates.
Otonwewakpadan
The Dakota People on Long Lake
by Dave Peterson, President

The initial occupation of the New Brighton area is often marked by the settlement of the Perry family near Lake Johanna in 1849. However, there is a long history of Native Americans living in the area that predates European immigrants, who are likely to have been their earliest neighbors.

As Gene Skiba recounts in *A Centennial History of New Brighton Minnesota* (1987), around 1740, Dakota people settled near Rice Creek to harvest the wild rice that gives the creek its name. According to Skiba, the people that settled on the north side of Long Lake near the inlet of Rice Creek called their village Otonwewakpadan or “Village on a Stream.” The French are reported to have called it Grand Village, attesting to other Europeans moving through the area before 1850.

Existing records tell only of when the French met the Dakota on Long Lake. No one knows when the village was founded or precisely when it was abandoned. Native mounds containing human remains and a variety of artifacts have been recorded along Rice Creek, and one still stands near the confluence of Rice Creek and Long Lake. Although it may have been disturbed in the past, it’s fortunate that even on private property, human burials are now protected by the Private Cemeteries Act.

The presence of a cemetery is a good indication that people lived in the vicinity as well. The French encountered the Dakota at Long Lake in 1755-1760 and they remained another 15-30 years or the same time the Revolutionary War was ending. In time the Dakota coalesced in fewer settlements, including Prior Lake and Shakopee where the Mdewakanton remain to this day.

Although the number of settlements across the state contracted, Dakota people lived in villages in the greater metropolitan area and continued to return to former habitation areas to collect wild rice. They moved through the area regularly until the early 1900s and traded fish and hides with European settlers near New Brighton in Rose Township.

The New Brighton Area Historical Society curates a large collection of stone arrowheads and spearpoints donated by Leone Langner Aronson. Skiba gives this account from early New Brighton resident Kenneth Gregson:

“Alongside of Long Lake was a sand dune during our childhood days...where we would go and find any amount of Indian treasures: arrowheads, Pipestone pipes, as well as pieces of junk earlier visitors had cast off.

“These would be uncovered as the winds blowing across the lake would blow that fickle sand. So we would hardly ever miss at locating something.”

In 2017, NBAHS Board President David Peterson shared photographs of the collection with archaeologist Kent Bakken, the foremost specialist on stone materials used to make ancient Native American artifacts in Minnesota. Peterson, who is also an archaeologist, suspected many were far older than the Long Lake village. Bakken confirmed this, indicating they include early Eastern Woodland types that may be as much as 1500 years old.

In the future, NBAHS will closely investigate the age, types, and sources of materials used to make them, and what this indicates about the extensive movement of early Native Americans in the region.

The Aronson arrowhead collection acquired from Jeff Ingebritson in 2011. Left to right: Ingebritson and NBAHS Board members Jerry Blanski and Jerry Bensing.
New Brighton Area Historical Society is on Facebook!

In the search area on Facebook, type New Brighton Area Historical Society. Since we began our page in September 2014, we soon had 87 “likes;” today we have 506 “likes,” and reaching over 1100 people.

Please consider going to Facebook and “liking” our page.

NBAHS Plank Sales

The NBAHS has sold 663 planks to date for its decking surrounding the depot. And we still have planks available for future engraving! If you’re interested, you may send your requests to our address on page one. You can also download our plank flyer at www.newbrightonhistory.com > Downloadable Forms > Plank Flyer. The price is $50 for up to 25 letters and/or characters, with $2 for each additional letter and/or character.

Note from the Editor:

I have given notice to the New Brighton Area Historical Society Board of Directors that I will not be a candidate for any board position in 2018. I have served on the Society’s board since its inception in 1980, along with Jerry Bensing, serving 38 continuous years. My husband and I spent many, many hours working on behalf of the society and enjoyed each and every task. We moved to the Mille Lacs area on 2000, and now find that the long drive back and forth to help work at the depot and at our events is no longer possible for us. We have extremely enjoyed the relationships we made with our board of directors and our members and consider you our life-long friends. We thank you for your support over the years.

Joyce Kloncz

Your membership supports our all-volunteer organization and allows us to showcase our history and honor our heritage for years to come. Help us preserve and share the fascinating history of the New Brighton area by becoming a member today! If you are already a member, please check your mailing label for your membership expiration date. If expired, or about to expire, please renew in a timely manner and return the form below to: NBAHS, PO Box 120624, New Brighton, MN 55112.

Name ______________________________________ Senior $10/per person over 65 ______ Date ____________
Address ____________________________________ Individual $15 ______ Invite a friend to join the NBAHS
City ____________________________ State_______ Family $25 ______
Zip ________________ Phone ___________________ Life $150 ______ Club, Business $100 ______
Email address ____________________________ I would like information on volunteer opportunities __________