

Brillion Historical Society



October 11, 2010

Dear Members,

Many months ago when you received your first edition of "Now and Then", the official newsletter of the Brillion Historical Society, no one thought so many months would pass between communications. Unfortunately that was the case when we lost our new editor and friend, Carol Hauser to cancer shortly after the mailing. Carol was a very supportive member of the Society who also chaired the Holiday Open House. She is dearly missed.

It is our hope that an "official" newsletter will be forthcoming shortly. However, in the interim I have decided to do a letter to our members with some very important and timely information. I also want to remind you that current information is available on our web site, www.brillionhistoricalsociety.org.

Last year around this time we were notified that the Brillion Community Center was changing its hours and would be closing at 8:00 p.m. This did not give us adequate time to conduct a business meeting, program and social hour so we moved our meeting location to the Museum which worked out well in regard to preparing the buildings for the 125th celebration of Brillion as a community. However, we are again looking at options for a meeting location to encourage better membership attendance.

Since November is the month of our Annual Meeting and election of officers, the meeting will be held at **THE BRILLION COMMUNITY CENTER** and **not at the Museum**. Mark your calendar for 7:00 p.m. on November 1. We need to have a strong showing of membership to talk about future plans of the Historical Society. Where to have our meetings is an important discussion to have.

In recent years, The Holiday Open House has become a huge event taking place over several weekends. At this point we don't have the resources to continue in the previous format. However, we do want to celebrate the Holidays in History House and the Museum and have it

open to the public. We can accomplish this by downsizing the event to one weekend, keeping all artifacts in their respective places, and having Historical Society members decorate the buildings and grounds. Organizations and individuals will not be asked to put up a tree. The Holiday Open House which is entitled *An Old Fashioned Christmas* will take place on Saturday, December 4th and Sunday December 5th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The holiday spirit will continue into the next day as we have the Historical Society Christmas Party scheduled for Monday, December 6th. Festivities will take place at Deer Run with beverages at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6:30. Chicken cordon bleu is on the menu at a cost of \$11.00 per person including tax and tip. Call Janet Mathiebe at 756-2430 for your reservations. Cancellations must be made by Friday, December 3 or you will be asked to pay the cost of the dinner. Please remember to bring food items as a donation to the local food pantry.

The 125th celebration of Brillion as a great community was a tremendous success. Many improvements were made to History House and the Museum. A memorable display was set up in the tent at Peters Park for the community to enjoy. But now it is time to finish the job we started in organizing the Museum, making a few changes to History House, and developing the Annex into another display area. Sound like a big job?! IT IS. If we get enough help from our membership, anything is possible. Tuesday, November 9th has been designated as a "work day" to start the ball rolling. If you are able, your help is needed.

When I joined the Historical Society in 2001, often 30-40 members attended the meetings on a regular basis. Beside the Board of Directors, there were four members present at the October meeting. Obviously a change is needed for the Historical Society to continue at the level that it has. Sadly we have lost many dear friends. For others, physical limitations interfere with their generous spirit that has supported us so greatly in the past.

Now is the time to step to the plate and give your full support to the Historical Society. I am committed to keeping our members better informed of Society activities so all can be aware of the needs. When you see the treasures we have and the gifts we have been given, finding a little time to help is actually fun. We are a volunteer organization. We do not have funds for hired staff. If something doesn't change soon, I shudder to think what will happen to the Museum, Annex and History House in years to come.

Sincerely

Linda Moehr

President