A Message from the President of the Chelsea Area Historical Society:

Fellow Members and Supporters of Chelsea History –

First and foremost, thank you for your on-going support! And my most sincere gratitude to the core group of volunteers who gave so much of their talents and time to make this past year the success that it has been! In particular, I’d like to thank my fellow Board Members – we work well as a team with a common purpose of preserving Chelsea’s rich history and making it available for present and future generations... it is a sincere pleasure to serve alongside of each of you.

If anyone cares to look back years from now at our society’s history, 45 years and counting, I believe strongly that they will see that 2019 was a historic year indeed. Of course the biggest news was paying off the CAHS Museum’s mortgage in September. This would be a great accomplishment in any case but knowing that just 3 years earlier we had a $120,000 land contract and balloon payment on the horizon, this feat becomes even greater. 2019 also saw us being awarded over $23,000 in a grant from the Chelsea Community Foundation for significant physical improvements at the museum. You will see these roll out in 2020. As they say in the TV commercials, but wait, there’s more... as detailed in following pages, we also had half a dozen successful presentations and our First Annual Flanders Fest. We had a great handful of successful and enjoyable fundraising events including the Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction; After Dark Walking Tours; as High Tea at the Museum; and our most successful Holiday Historic Homes Tour ever!

If that wasn’t enough... we have had more wonderful additions to our collections; we introduced a completely redesigned webpage making it more user friendly; we were written-up in the Michigan Historical Society’s “Michigan History” magazine; and our membership rolls are at record levels. Last, but not least, thanks to our generous donors, our financial position has never been stronger and the outlook for a very promising future has never been better! But we’re not stopping there... in 2020 look for many more new features in and around the museum; we’ll have some more great presentations and events; and we’ll be announcing, and showing how our collections will be more organized, and thus more accessible, than ever!

Thank you again for your support – keep it coming and together we will ensure a very positive future for Chelsea’s rich past!

Sincerely,

Bill O’Reilly.

President, Chelsea Area Historical Society
Accomplishments

Chelsea Historical Museum is Debt-Free!

As you have hopefully already heard, in September we announced that the mortgage on the CAHS Museum was paid in full as a result of our successful Match Campaign. Thanks to all who donated and made it possible for your CAHS to be 100% debt free. We will still count on your generous support and fundraisers to meet our on-going expenses and plan for the future but the “monkey is off our back” and our Chelsea History has a very bright future! We greatly appreciate the on-going support of the Chelsea State Bank during our entire mortgage process.

Chelsea Community Foundation Awards CAHS A Major Grant

We are very pleased to be awarded this grant that will allow some major improvements at the CAHS Museum.

These include: • a small carriage house, nicknamed “The Firehouse”, being built at the rear of the museum driveway. It will house our antique fire wagon (which has been in storage since we had no place to display it) and a number of other items; • expansion of the “Fireplace Room” to make it more of a meeting room and to allow for additional displays; • technology upgrades including video displays in each room, new computers, video recording equipment, and software upgrades; • a new wheelchair ramp at the rear of the museum.
Events and Programming

January 14 — The many who attended the January 14th CAHS presentation were treated to a very interesting look deep into Chelsea’s very, very early history – the geological history of our area. The presentation was made by our very own Larry Bean – many, many thanks!

January 23 — Jennifer from the Garden Mill donated lots of artifacts from the old Chelsea Hardware Store that had been located in the building. We were able to take a quick tour of the building, upstairs and the basement before loading and storing the material in the basement of the museum, eventually including the artifacts in displays.

March 11 — Membership Meeting and Presentation of “Her-Story”. Elizabeth Hammer noted some milestones in the progress of women’s rights since the town was founded in 1850, and then highlighted several of the women who had a significant impact on the community. A panel, moderated by the mayor of Chelsea, Melissa Johnson, consisted of “Around Town” host, Linda Meloche; Publisher of “Chelsea Update”, Lisa Allmendinger; Joy Barrett, Senior Pastor of Chelsea United Methodist Church; and Dudley Holmes as a representative of both his mother, Nancy and his grandmother, Mable Holmes. There was lots of audience participation and a very informative discussion.
Events and Programming

April 13 – Chelsea Expo presented by the Chelsea Senior Center and held at the Washington Street Education Center.

More than 1,200 visitors attended and had the chance to learn about local resources as well as county services. Elizabeth Hammer and Jan Bernath met with dozens of people during the event and explained the many activities and artifacts at the museum.

April 29 – The annual Linda Collins Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction took place at the historic Chelsea Depot. Janet Ogle-Mater again was the leader of the effort of many of our volunteers and it was a very successful fundraiser.

Thompson’s Pizza provided all the spaghetti, sauce, salad and many other things for the enjoyment of those attending.

May 13 – A presentation of items “From the Attic” gave the audience a chance to see items owned by the historical society that are being stored for inclusion in future displays. A few attendees also presented memorabilia and artifacts and shared their stories.
Events and Programming

**June 4** — Chevrolet brought a film crew out to the Chelsea area to film a commercial for the local Chevy dealers. The Chelsea Area Historical Society’s museum was featured prominently (inside and out) in the commercial! The commercial can be found by following this link: [https://chevydetroit.com/neighborhood-spotlight-downtown-chelsea/](https://chevydetroit.com/neighborhood-spotlight-downtown-chelsea/)

**July 26** — During the annual car show held as part of the Sounds and Sights in Chelsea on Thursday nights, a tent was setup to display the 1911 Flanders Motorcycle, made right here in Chelsea. Many of the “Flanders” group were on hand to explain all about the restoration process. Dave Stauss, Candace Shavalia, Bill Christen, Frank Hammer, Jan Bernath and Cathy Clark were there to provide information to the many visitors during the car show.

**August 4** — The first annual “Flanders Fest” took place and all present will agree, our 1st Annual Flanders fest was quite an event. About 100 people joined in the festivities inside and outside of the CAHS Museum and the Chelsea Train Depot. 50+ vintage motorcycles were part of the activities. One of the special guests was William Flanders Spencer, great-grandson of company founder Walter Flanders – shown with Eric Froh, that day’s rider of CAHS’s 1911 Flanders.
Events and Programming

September 16 - A good crowd was on hand for our dedication ceremony of the new front yard in recognition of Herbert Vogel and Elsie Swanberg. This was followed by a wonderful presentation on the career of General Herbert Vogel by Steve Wright.
Events and Programming

**November 18** — A heavy snow storm postponed our presentation from November 11 until the 18th but there was still a good crowd to hear Cynthia Furlong-Reynolds present excerpts from her upcoming book on a World War I veteran from Chelsea. Members of the audience participated in the presentation by reading passages and asking questions.

**December 7** — Our annual Homes Tour was a resounding success! 116 tickets were sold for this memorable event showcasing 5 wonderful, historic and remarkable downtown area homes. All of them were decked-out for the holidays and guides were on-site in each home to tell of the rich history of each home.
Events and Programming

December 9 — The annual Pot-Luck Dinner was held at the historic Train Depot with the historical society providing the main dish and plenty of side dishes and desserts supplied by the guests. It was a great time to catch up with friends and enjoy a great meal. It is always a wonderful way to end a very successful year with the Chelsea Area Historical Society.
Community Partners

A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR ON-GOING LOCAL BUSINESS SPONSORS

Thompson's Pizza

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Your Real Estate Resource
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734-562-2682

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Riemco Design + Build
Building Company

Chelsea Lumber Company

Kitty & Co.

Merkel
since 1924
Furniture and Carpet One
### Financial Report

#### 2019 Summary

**Income**

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<th>Description</th>
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**TOTAL INCOME:** $83,556.43

**Expenses**

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**TOTAL EXPENSES:** $68,741.22

**NET INCOME:** $14,815.21
THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS

Support from members, donors, and individuals like you allows the Museum to fulfill its mission. Your gifts allow the Museum to make the history of the Chelsea Area more accessible, providing education to an increasingly diverse public.

Your contributions allow us to conserve our Permanent Collection, maintain our historic building, present spectacular exhibitions and public programs, and provide educational outreach to local school children each year.

Thank you for your support!