

Fall 2025

Lovells Township Historical Society

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LTHS Decals Now Available!

\$5 Each

Request one with your donation or via email.

Our Strategic Plan and How You Can Help

Our board of directors has been hard at work developing a long-range strategic plan. What started with a wishlist has evolved into a written, multi-year plan. We have already accomplished some of the items on our plan, we installed new

windows in the schoolhouse and secured the funds to build a handicap ramp for the same building (project to be completed in the spring of 2026).

Some of the other things we are working on include a digital exhibit platform so we can create and display more of the photographs and documents we have stored in archival boxes far from the light of day. We'd also like to see the museum open for more hours each week of the season which means we will have to hire some help. We can only expect so much from our volunteers.

Getting things done means raising money and we are starting

an ambitious sponsorship program to be rolled out in the



coming weeks and months. At the simplest level we will be asking local businesses to become sponsors and help us by donating products, services or gift certificates. These can be prizes for Leaky Waders or Silent Auction items. In the intermediate level we are reaching out to all the businesses we KNOW who do business in Lovells Township, all the beverage distributors, the suppliers who sell products in our grocery stores and restaurants, the energy companies (propane), contractors and builders like Jack Millikin, Inc. and Lewiston Sand & Gravel, the banks and credit unions our citizens use, etc. Basically, anyone who is

making money from our residents and visitors.

At the top of the pyramid are the area's largest employers, Arauco, Weyerhaeuser, La Fontaine Automotive Group, Feeney Ford, and Walgreens. We know these folks are grateful for their success and want to do what they can to support the communities that serve them. We are going to

ask them to step up and make a commitment to help us on a regular basis.

This is where we need your help. We need introductions to anyone at these companies. There's a lot of competition for their support and sending a blind email is not likely to generate much attention. But if you can introduce us to someone you know at one of these companies maybe we can find a way to tell our story and be heard.

We have a lot to offer. We will gladly sing the praises of the companies who step up to support us and we have an audience that is listening.

Website, Social Media and YouTube

No matter what you may think of the digital age and all its trappings it cannot be denied. While many of us still

prefer reading this newsletter in print, on paper, there's another world out there. We

haven't gone whole hog digital but we have certainly put a few

6,500 views **162,000 views** **3,200 views**
WEBSITE **facebook** **YouTube**

toes in the water. We started at the beginning of this year by creating a new, significantly ex-

panded website for LTHS.

The year is not over yet but so far we have had over 6,500 page views by more than 2,500 unique visitors.

Continued on page 2

Website, Social Media and YouTube *continued from page 1*

We've been learning how to drive traffic from our Facebook page which has had more than 162,000 views over the same period. And we started our own YouTube Channel.

YouTube started as a place to post the rod making videos we made while making the bamboo rod we raffled off but we have been finding other interesting

content to put up. We have started a series called Life in Lovells, the first episode was about the fabric arts group Loose Threads. The second episode, still in progress, is about the Lovells Bridge Walk. We've also been spending some time with some rather legendary individuals in the fly fishing arena. We had a great chat with Rod Builder Bob Summers over the summer and we recently

sat down with Fly Tyer Jerry Regan. Keep an eye on the channel as these films will be posted over the coming weeks. The YouTube channel has had over 3,200 views since we started it in May 2025.

<https://www.youtube.com/@LovellsHistory>

<https://www.facebook.com/LovellsHistory>

<https://www.lovellshistory.org/>

Schoolhouse Renovation & Preservation

Well, the 2025 LTHS Season has ended and the 1907 Lone Pine Schoolhouse is buttoned up and snug for its long winter's nap. It was a very successful summer and the Quilting Exhibit was well attended and received by our guests. Thanks to all the ladies who worked so hard making the quilts and setting up and taking down the displays and acting as docents during the season.

The subject of our schoolhouse exhibit for the 2026 season will be "Old vs. New, Extinct vs. Current or Ancient vs Modern" and a call is out to our Lovells citizens for contributions of stories, remembrances and artifacts for cataloging and possible display.

On the Schoolhouse renovation and preservation front, we are very happy to report the purchase and installation of

six new windows! This was possible due to a very generous \$6,500

grant from the Great Lakes Energy People Fund, for which we are very thankful. If you 'round up' when you pay your GLE bill then you helped

make this, and hundreds of other such grants, happen. The old windows were original to the building (now 118 years old) and were beyond restoration. However, those old windows still have some life and are available for decorative wall hangings for \$50 each. Thanks to Richard and George for their installation labor, and especially to contractor Roger Perry



(Richard's brother), who contributed his installation and carpentry expertise.



Our next project is the construction and installation of an ADA approved handicapped access ramp for the schoolhouse. Our thanks go to the Lovells Township Board which has approved a \$2,500 grant to help cover the cost. Our goal is to have the ramp in place by our Spring Opener Celebration in April.

We wish everyone a safe and happy winter and holiday season and we hope to see you all on the other side of the snow!

Schoolhouse Museum Exhibit Theme for 2026

Next year we will focus on "Old" versus "New", "Extinct" versus "Current" or "Ancient" versus "Modern". The terminology is dependent upon your viewpoint. The areas we will focus on are things from everyday life such as cooking, heating, communication and transportation and how they have changed over the years. For example, cooking used to be done on stoves fueled by wood. Now our stoves are fueled by gas or electricity and we supplement them with microwaves, air fryers and crockpots.

For verbal communication, phones over time have had cranks on them, rotary dials, party lines and/or appeared in booths outside gas stations and party stores. Now most of those are gone and have been replaced with cellphones. For written communication, hand-written mailed letters with stamps have been replaced by texts, emails and facebook messages.

In order to get from one location to another before the advent of automobiles, the options were by foot, by

horse or in some cases by bicycle. Now in addition to cars and motorcycles, there are e-bikes, 4-wheelers and side-by-sides.

These are only a few examples of the areas we will explore. We need your help. If you have examples of items used in the bygone years and are willing to have them displayed in the museum next year, please contact me by email at nancys33042@aol.com.

Thank you in advance for your help.

2025 Fall Upland Dinner

Another Fall Upland Dinner is in the books. It was a wonderful evening and this event is shaping up to be one of our favorites. Our deep thanks to everyone that came out to help us celebrate. It is all of you that make this night so enjoyable and all of you that made it a success for the Historical Society.



Richard Perry about to get things going at the speakers table

As you all recognize, events like this require a small volunteer army and we are grateful to all our soldiers. Bethany and Tyler Stiles came up from Ohio to help us. If you bought something at the Silent Auction it was probably Bethany that helped you check out, either her or Brandy Solak. Tyler was helper at large along with Steve Solak. These four keep showing up when we need them so they must like us. The food we provided was cooked by Jo Johnson (venison chili extraordinaire),



Jeff McGowan came bearing gifts



Rockett made some new friends

Lillian Perry (ham & bean soup), Sally Brand (chili), and Lyle Kearns (beaver bourguignon). Besides donating many of the items in the Silent Auction, Nancy Simonelli organized the entire auction and collected the rest of

the items from donors. Finally, Richard

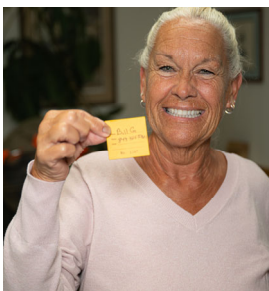


Lynn Dee Galey

Perry recruited our two wonderful speakers and kept us all in line as a President should. Lynn Dee Galey joined us from Firelight Setters and discussed her perspectives on breeding excellence. She even brought a few dogs for people to visit with in the parking lot. Lynn Dee has a wealth of breeding and hunting experience and we were lucky to have her join us. Scott Smith DVM joined us not just as a veterinarian but also as the President of the Jim Foote Chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society. Scott gave us a thorough look at what he carries for field first aid and why. Many thanks to Lynn Dee and Scott for sharing their wisdom and experience and giving us some food for thought to go with the food in our bellies.



Scott Smith DVM



Donna drew the winning ticket for us

After four months of selling raffle tickets and 6 months of building a custom bamboo fly rod we finally drew the winning ticket....drum roll please...Bill Gergosky of Lovells was the lucky donor. We raised over \$4,000 with



the raffle and offer our heartfelt thanks to everyone that took a chance and made a donation at the same time. Stay tuned to see what fabulous prizes we come up with for next year.

We are already looking forward to next year and we are hoping to make some small, positive changes each year to ensure this event is a must for all of your fall calendars. We have begun talking to Chef Kaytie Bowman about catering next year's event. We're going to stick with game dishes but let her work her magic while giving a break to volunteer chefs.



So, mark your calendars for October 17, 2026 and get ready for another fun evening at Township Hall.



The food table was a hit with guests

Message from the President

As the fall season transitions into winter, the LTHS museums have officially closed for the year.

The 2025 season was highly productive for the Historical Society. We hosted successful events and secured crucial grant funding that enabled us to move forward with planned repairs and upgrades to the Schoolhouse Museum. Thanks to a grant from the Great Lakes Energy People Fund, new windows were purchased and installed. Additionally, an ADA-compliant entrance, funded by Lovells Township, is scheduled for completion this spring.

We are also expanding our digital presence:

-The video series documenting the Bamboo Rod Project, along with a session featuring the Loose Threads Quilting Group, are both running on our YouTube Channel.

-We recently created a podcast with Lyn Dee Galey (Fire Light Bird Dogs) discussing her experiences breeding, raising, and hunting with English Setters.

-A video featuring Grayling Fly Tying legend Jerry Regan is being prepared for release...

Additional videos and podcasts will be released as content becomes available.

The Bamboo Rod Exhibit at the Trout

Museum and the Quilting displays at the Schoolhouse were very well received by our visitors. Thank you to the volunteers and board members who collected and organized the material to assemble these excellent exhibits.

We are pleased to report an increase in visitors last season, both during open hours and by appointment. Our increased presence on social media is successfully raising awareness of the Historical Society and our mission.

Our major fundraising events, Leaky Waders and the Fall Upland Dinner, were well-attended, and we are grateful for your participation and support. The Bamboo Rod Project was particularly interesting and informative, and the associated raffle raised over \$4,000 to help cover next season's operating expenses.

Looking ahead, the 2026 Hot Stove program will kick off on Thursday, January 29th, featuring David Howie from Saab. These sessions will be held every other Thursday at 6:00 PM in the Lovells Township Hall. We have an exciting lineup of speakers and topics scheduled; please visit our website and Facebook page for full details.

Next year's museum exhibits are also shaping up:

-The Schoolhouse will feature engaging, interactive displays focusing on life in this area in the early to mid-1900s.

-The Trout Museum will focus on the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) over the decades and how the agency has interacted with and served our communities and outdoor activities.

On behalf of the board, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the visitors and contributors who support the Historical Society, our events, and our museums. Thank you again for your continued support.

Richard Perry



LTHS

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Grayling, MI 49738

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Donations are the main source of funding for our Historical Society. They make our events and activities possible and help with the Museum operations. Your financial contributions are much appreciated. Memberships suggest an annually recurring contribution (that can be cancelled at anytime) but you a free to simply donate as well.

YES! I WANT TO BE A MEMBER!

Join On-line at www.lovellshistory.org or mail in this form.

☐ Contributing Member \$20

☐ Patron \$50

☐ Benefactor \$150

☐ Legacy \$300

Please and provide your info, your receipt will be mailed to you

Donation Amount \$ _____

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