

Fall/Winter 2017

Our Mission

To preserve, document and classify the physical history of the Lake Minnetonka area. To provide a means by which everyone can share in the history of the lake area. To stimulate interest in the cultural heritage of the area.

Founded in 1972, the Excelsior-Lake Minnetonka Historical Society preserves the history of Lake Minnetonka and the communities of Deephaven, Excelsior, Greenwood, Shorewood, and Tonka Bay.

The Society's Museum and Archives are free and open to the public, and hold a large collection of historical artifacts and documents. It regularly presents programs and publishes books on topics of local historical interest.

E L M H S

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Excelsior, MN 55331
952-221-4766
info@elmhs.org
www.elmhs.org

**ELMHS 2017-2018
Board of Directors**

President: Brianna DePauw
Vice President: Tom Williams
Treasurer: Cheryl Ahlcrona
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Molly Anderson, Deanna Bunkelman, Olga Kelly, Mark Read, Tad Shaw, Lisa Stevens, Jacob Westman.
Emeritus: Jerry Holl, Betty Peck

The Harborage

Major Photo Collection Donated to ELMHS!

Organizations like the Excelsior-Lake Minnetonka Historical Society have always depended on the kindness of strangers to fill their coffers, museums and archival files. But we've also depended on the kindness of friends. Such a friend is professional historian and ELMHS volunteer Scott D. McGinnis. This August, Scott donated his historic Lake Minnetonka photograph and postcard collection to the Society. It is comprised of almost 400 rare and valuable images which he has acquired throughout his 35-year career.

Images from Scott's donation include 93 rare 19th century stereoviews of Lake Minnetonka such as the reconstructed St. Alban's Bay drawbridge in 1894, Excelsior Commons beach in 1879, Wayzata in 1867, and 100+ nearly mint postcards ranging from 1900-1920s. "My collection is going to do a lot more good where other people can enjoy and use it, instead of being hidden away in my office," said McGinnis.

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*The Excelsior docks at the foot of Water Street, ca. 1857.
Charter boats are docked here today.*

Tapping History Programs

At Excelsior Brewing Company

421 Third Street, Excelsior

Free & Open to the Public.

Doors Open at 6:00pm, Program begins at 7:00pm.

Seating is First Come, First Served.

For more information: info@elmhs.org, 952-221-4766, www.elmhs.org.

Special Time & Location

Monday, October 9, 5:30pm

Oak Hill Cemetery, just east of 810
Excelsior Blvd. Excelsior

Oak Hill Cemetery Tour

with Scott McGinnis

Local historian, Scott D. McGinnis, will lead a tour of historic Oak Hill Cemetery which has been Excelsior's burial ground since the 1850's and holds over 1,400 burials. He will highlight the lives and deaths of the area's prominent and notorious settlers and citizens. Park down below and meet Scott at the top as we spiral down through Excelsior's history interred in Oak Hill Cemetery. [Tour includes steep and uneven terrain. Parking is limited.]



Oak Hill Cemetery. Courtesy of Scott D. McGinnis.



Excelsior's Wyer/Pearce House, pictured here on Mill Street in 1894, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is Excelsior's Historic Site No. 2. Courtesy of ELMHS.

Monday, November 13

Designating Historic Excelsior Sites

with Pat Smith & Lindsay Hannah

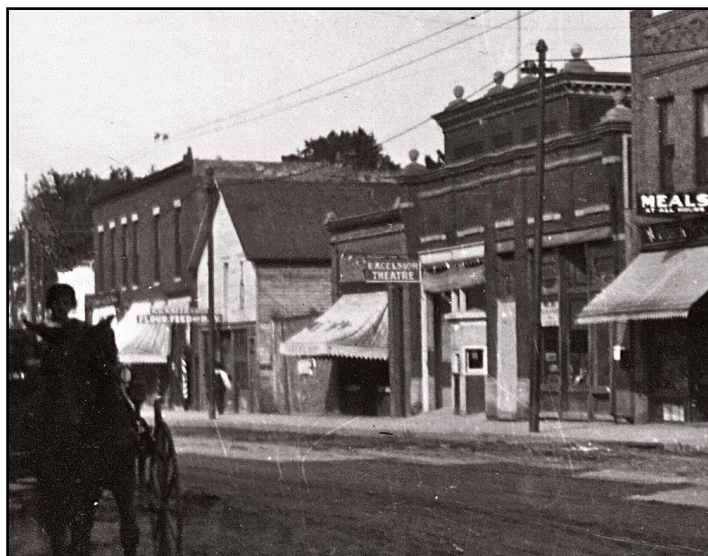
Join Excelsior's Planning Director, Pat Smith and Lindsay Hannah of Row 10 Historic Preservation Solutions, New Orleans to learn about Excelsior's local landmark program and how Excelsior historic sites are designated. The presentation will include a brief history of preservation in the U.S. and what it means for a property to be in the National Register.

Monday, December 11

The Movie Theater in Excelsior
with Tim Caron

For over 100 years, Excelsior has had a local movie theater. Amazingly, the built history of movie houses in Excelsior is still present—all three of the buildings that have housed permanent cinemas still exist in Excelsior’s historic downtown, including the current Dock Cinema (formerly the Tonka Theater). This program will showcase each of these theaters--describing when and where it was located, what it offered to the theater patron, and what types of movies were shown, including stills and short film clips. It will also describe the cultural effect of movies and local cinemas on Excelsior, from their widespread introduction just before WWI, through the Great Depression and WWII, and continuing into the dawn of the postwar era.

Tim Caron, an enthusiast of old buildings (and old movies) who has renovated one of these historic theater buildings (see photo below), will share his observations and research regarding these unique sites and the important role they played in Excelsior’s history.

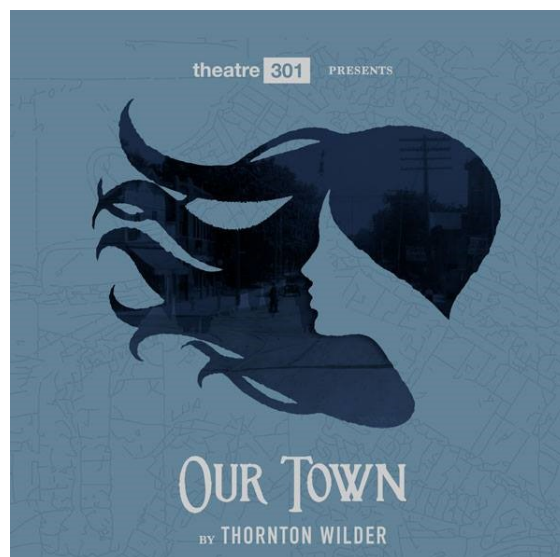


*Excelsior Theatre in the Bullen’s Building before 1914, ,
223 Water Street, second building from right.
Courtesy of Tim Caron.*

Monday, January 8

Topic & Speaker to be announced.

Please follow ELMHS on Facebook, check our website or become a member to receive email updates.



**Theatre 301
At Mount Calvary Lutheran Church
To Present
“Our Town”
By Thornton Wilder**

With Pre-Show Presentations About Excelsior
in the Early 1900s
by the Excelsior-Lake Minnetonka
Historical Society!

October 12th– 15th
Tickets Available at
www.theatre301.org or
952-474-8893 x301

Major Photo Collection Donated to ELMHS!

Continued from Page 1...

“It was time to bring it to a wider audience, and I really get a kick out of seeing people’s faces when they see some of these pictures in person for the first time.”

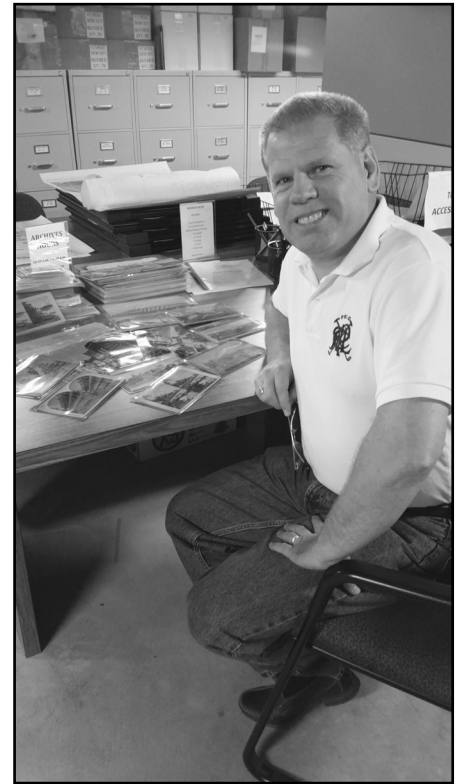
Scott knows his collection will be well cared for and well-used as he has volunteered in our archives for the past several years helping us preserve historical materials and assisting researchers. “Having taken the lead in preserving the ELMHS photo collection, I can now convincingly ask others for their donations and assure them they will be well preserved next to mine. If I can let go of my collection, then perhaps it will encourage others to do the same.”

The Society is very lucky that people like Scott believe in preserving our history and sharing it with the public. We are tremendously grateful for the wonderful photographs that Scott and others have entrusted us with over our 45-year history, resulting in one of the largest collections of historic Lake Minnetonka images in existence. The public is invited to view our photo collection in our archives in the lower level of the historic Excelsior Public School building, 261 School Avenue in Excelsior.

We’re open 10:00 am-1:00 pm every Wednesday and the second Saturday of the month. Volunteers are happy to bring photos out for review and can scan or copy them for a fee. When more volunteers become available, the Society will begin the process of scanning Scott’s photos and adding them to our online collection, bringing them to a worldwide audience.

If you’d like to help with any of the projects mentioned above and are free during our archive hours, please contact us at info@elmhs.org or 952-221-4766. And

- we continue to welcome donations of historic artifacts, documents and photographs pertinent to the south Lake Minnetonka area into our care to be preserved for future generations. Please contact the Society if you would like to join Scott in donating historic items, or consider bequeathing them to the Society in your will. According to our historical research, you can’t take it with you...



Scott D. McGinnis in the ELMHS archives with his photo collection.



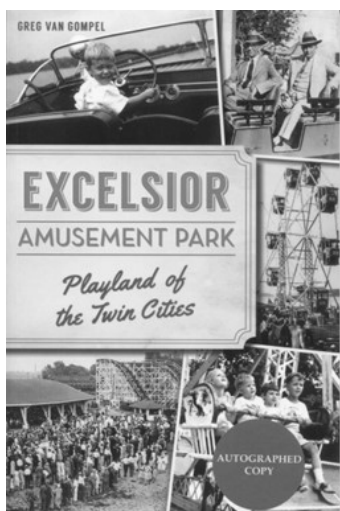
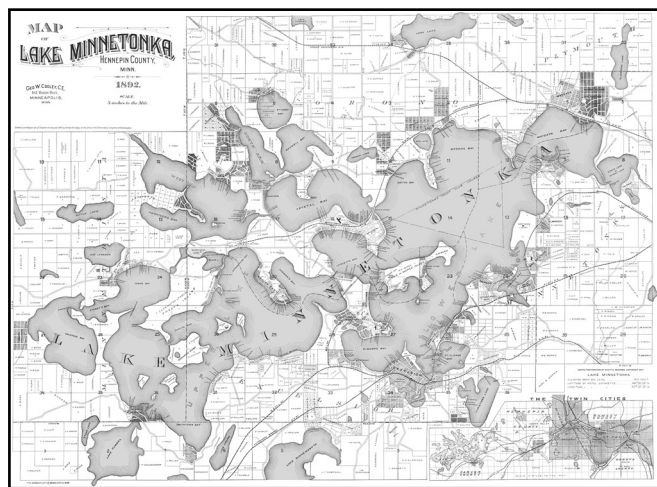
Solberg Draw Bridge in 1894. Built for Minneapolis & St. Louis Railway in 1881 between Excelsior and St. Alban's bays.

Exclusive, New Historical Lake Minnetonka Merchandise – The Perfect Holiday Gift for the History Lover Who Has Everything!



The Society is offering a small number of limited edition, one-of-a-kind maps for purchase. These handsomely framed and matted pieces have been digitally restored and carefully re-colored by historian Scott D. McGinnis. They are printed on heavy white, coated photo paper and feature an ivory mat with black beaded edge and ornate, black beaded frame. Available maps include **Cottagewood, 1898** (27.5”Wx23.25”H); **Tonka Bay, 1898** (29”Wx35”H); and **Excelsior 1898** (27.5”Wx23.25”H). They are priced at \$150 each. Shipping of framed items may be arranged at market rate by request.

A striking restored print of an **1892 map of Lake Minnetonka** is also available. It is printed on heavy, white, coated photo paper and is black and white with sky blue water and title accents. As well as adding color to the map, McGinnis volunteered close to 100 hours of his time, painstakingly correcting and adding to the property owners recorded on the map as well as correcting 125 year old cartographic errors and anomalies, making this a truly historic, one-of-a-kind work of art. A small number of 22”x17”unframed prints may be purchased for \$30 each and the map may also be special ordered framed and matted as the others above for \$150.



The Society is also now carrying “**Excelsior Amusement Park, Playland of the Twin Cities**” by nationally known amusement park historian Greg Van Gompel. Published this summer by History Press, the book features images from the Society as well as rarely seen private collections and tells the history of the park and its owners - the Pearce family - from its beginning in 1925 to its demolition in 1974 – and beyond. Paperback. Black and white. 125 pages. 6”x9”. \$24.

These items and many other books, maps, prints, notecards and memberships may be purchased at the Society’s online store at www.elmhs.org, in our Museum at 305 Water Street open Tuesdays, 2:00-6:00 pm through October and Saturdays 1:00-4:00 pm through September, or in our Archives in the historic Excelsior Public School building, 261 School Avenue, Suite 102, Lower Level, open 10:00 am-1:00 pm, Wednesdays and the second Saturday of the month. For more information: info@elmhs.org or 952-221-4766.

MEMBERSHIP

Members shape the Society's policies and programs, and support our work in preserving the area's history.

Annual member benefits include:

- ◆ The Society's newsletter and mailings
- ◆ Invitations to special events
- ◆ Discounts and special member privileges on select opportunities
- ◆ Voting privileges

Membership Levels

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 | Platinum | <input type="checkbox"/> \$45 | Household |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 | Gold | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 | Individual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | Silver | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 | Senior |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 | Bronze | | |

Or, make an individual contribution of any amount!

\$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Mail form and check made out to ELMHS to PO Box 305, Excelsior, MN 55331. You can also join or contribute online at www.elmhs.org. The Society is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

VOLUNTEERING

- Please contact me about volunteering for the Society. (See panel to right for more information.)

DONATION OF ARTIFACTS

- Please contact me regarding the donation of historical items to the Society. (See panel to right for more information.)

Volunteer with Us!

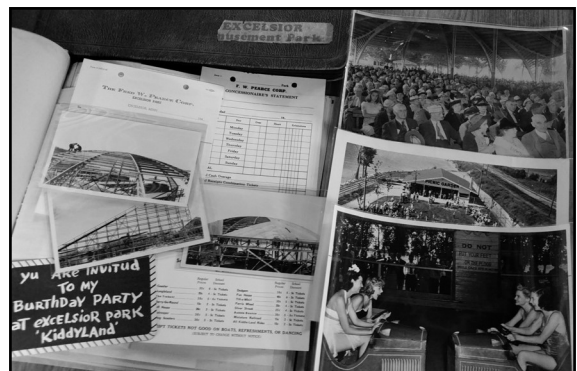
The Society is staffed entirely by volunteers and welcomes people of all ages and abilities to pursue their passions and assist in areas including:

- **Archives:** Assisting visitors, scanning, filing, researching, data entry.
- **Museum:** Serving as a host, cleaning and upkeep, data entry.
- **Publications:** Marketing merchandise to vendors, conducting inventories, selling merchandise at events, creating new books.
- **Programs and Events:** Set up and take down for Tapping History, welcoming people, creating new programs.
- **Membership and Fundraising:** Recruiting new members, contributors and volunteers, helping with direct mail appeals and special fundraising events, data entry.
- **Communications:** Writing press releases, creating marketing materials, contributing to social media, maintaining our website.
- **Technology:** Maintaining the Society's computer network and hardware, troubleshooting IT issues.

Training in all areas is provided. Contact us at info@elmhs.org or 952-221-4766 to learn more or visit our website at www.elmhs.org/volunteer.

Donate Artifacts

Donations of historic artifacts, photographs and documents pertinent to the history of the south Lake Minnetonka area are welcome for preservation in our Archives and display in our Museum. Help us share our community's history with future generations by sharing your history with us! (Due to space limitations, the Society is unable to accept all donations.)



Recent donations of Excelsior Amusement Park photos and scrapbooks from Judy Gabels and Nick Ruehl.

Thanks for your support!
NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS, AND CONTRIBUTORS

April 1, 2017 — August 31, 2017

MEMBERSHIPS

Platinum Level

Scott & Joey Dake

Gold Level

John & Meric Dougherty

Silver Level

Diane Dorr-Ruzin
 Tom & Mary Jo Fulkerson
 Jean Gray
 Lorrie Hall
 Ralph Hatch
 Ann Sampson Heimerl
 Thomas & Sarah Kolar
 Ron & Marcia McDaniel
 Doug & Lori McDougal
 Bill & Steph Naegele
 Anne Obermeyer
 Larry W. Opfer
 Mary Pat Peterson
 F. Todd Warner

Bronze Level

Mary Jane Barnard
 Shirley & Bill Baxter
 Deanna Bunkelman
 Sandra Hotvet
 Susan Mark
 Susan Queen
 John Audrey Rudberg
 Patrick & Elizabeth Schiltz
 Robert Schneider

Household Level

Jeanne Andersen
 Hans Dickel
 Bob & Judy Evans

Cathy & Cam Guthrie
 Toni Maria Schmid

Individual Level

Deb Bierbaum
 Terry Bolin
 Tom Burton
 Nancy Christianson
 Norma E Erickson
 Lindsay Hannah
 Jolie Hockert
 Brad & Sally Hunner
 Marietta Jacobsen
 Dr. Douglas & Marcia Jolstad
 Jeff Kamrath
 Olga Kelly
 Gary Kiecker
 Beth Maloney
 Jim Moffett
 Lori Schlottman
 Maybeth & Ed Sheridan
 Jessica Simanton
 Roger Smith
 Tim Soboleski
 Jill Sotirin
 Alan Tollefson
 Leona Toussaint
 Lee Webster
 Jacob Westman
 Mark Wilkes

Senior Level
 Jerald Anderson
 Dan & Terry Austin
 Michael Burnett
 Maureen Burns
 Cindy Busch & John Knox
 Michael D Bussey
 John & Carole Cranbrook

Carol Downie
 John DuPont
 Drue Gisvold
 Barnard Glaefke
 Susan Hocker
 Jerry & Justin Holl
 Bruce L. Kerber
 Alan Langstaff
 Janice Leafer
 Pamela Horton &
 Michael Mason
 Leone & Patrick McGlone
 Jean & Dick Mueller
 Randi Murphy
 Betty Peck
 David Pfeffer
 Dan Reed
 David & Judy Rients
 Staney Rostad
 Dale Rostad
 Will & Kathleen Skadsberg

Senior Level Cont.

Nina Stark
 Kathy Suddendorf
 Gregory Thomas
 Gary & Kay Thompson
 Paul Tierney
 Cecelia Tompkins
 Nan & Bob Woodburn
 LaWayne Yaeger

Life Members

(no longer offered)
 Bart Baker
 Alec & Marianne Beck
 Bob & Diane Bolles
 Suellen Douglas
 Don & Frannie Douglass

Kristin & Ken Dowell
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. Fayfield
 John Gorecki
 John P. & Jan Gray
 Phil & Eileen Hallin
 Paul Huber
 Ron Hughes
 Mr. & Mrs. Nick Johnson
 Dr. & Mrs. Randy Julian
 Terrance Kellogg
 Mark Knowlton
 Tom & Carol Knowlton
 Michael Kramer
 Ann Lundsten
 Scott McGinnis
 Minnesota Streetcar Museum
 Robert L. Naas
 Mr. & Mrs. William Naegele
 Aaron Person
 Sharon Provost
 Kellie & Gary Ringate
 Kathy Knowlton Schmid
 Carol Schmidt
 Dr. Milton H. Seifert
 Tad Shaw
 Lisa Stevens & Jeff Hatcher
 Rodney Thompson
 TSP Architecture Inc.
 Ruth Witrak

CONTRIBUTORS

ARMA
 Michael D Bussey
 Nancy Christianson
 Mr. & Mrs. Jack Post &
 Family in Memory of
 Geneva L. Post

A very special thank you to all of the ELMHS volunteers who have volunteered at the Museum, Archives, special events such as Apple Day, 10,000 Lakes Concours d'Elegance, Art on the Lake and our 45th Anniversary Celebration at the Old Log Theatre. Without our volunteers, the Excelsior-Lake Minnetonka Historical Society could not exist. Thank you for your continued support.

ACCESSIONS

April 1, 2017 — August 31, 2017

- **Barb Colby:** Misc. photos of Excelsior area.
- **Sue Erickson:** “Excelsior - A Historical Novel of Lake Minnetonka” and “Ozark Flats” by Bob Williams.
- **Pamela B. Heckert:** Photo of Excelsior School House, 1905.
- **Hopkins Historical Society:** Bound volumes of “Minnetonka Pilot” 1/2/1936-12/22/1949; “Deephaven Argus” 1/9/1939-1/30/1949.
- **Nancy Johnson:** Minnetonka Edition of “National Health Journal,” 1899.
- **Scott D. McGinnis:** Photo of Scott H. Plummer cottage, Groveland, Grays Bay, Minnetonka ca. 1907. 326 photos and postcards of Lake Minnetonka area (see article).
- **Museum of Lake Minnetonka:** Misc. maps, aerial photos, photographs of Excelsior and Lake Minnetonka area.
- **Nikki North:** Large number of photographs from Mason/Eddy families.
- **Nick Ruehl:** 1925 Excelsior Amusement Park scrapbook, memorabilia and a large number of photos belonging to park owner Fred Pearce.
- **Nancy Steege:** 40 photos of Excelsior Amusement Park dated 1970, loaned for scanning.
- **Gary Thompson:** Photo and letter regarding “House-by-the-Side-of-the-Road” in Shorewood.
- **Christine Weiland:** 4 Fortune Teller cards from Excelsior Amusement Park.
- **Nan and Bob Woodburn:** Mary Ostazeski watercolor of Excelsior Amusement Park.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PO Box 305
Excelsior MN 55331

