

FALL 2019

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.

ELMHS

PO Box 305

Excelsior, MN 55331

952-221-4766

info@elmhs.org

www.elmhs.org

ELMHS

Executive Director:

Rachel Houck

ELMHS

Board of Directors

President: Deanna Bunkelman

Vice President: Tom Williams

Treasurer: Cheryl Ahlcrona

Secretary: Scott Dake

Directors: Peter Kizilos-Clift,

Francesca Landon, Andrew Punch, Mark Read, Tad Shaw, Lisa Stevens

Emeritus Board Members: Jerry

Holl, Betty Peck

The Harborage

On the cutting edge for over 70 years!

By Mary Upgren



Image: Tony's Barber Shop, 2011

(Courtesy Scott McGinnis)

How much history can be packed into a 525 square foot building? Plenty, if it is Tony's Barber Shop in Excelsior. For 70 years, this has been the "go-to" place for generations of Excelsiorites. A place where one could get a haircut, catch-up on the local news or watch a game on TV. It was featured in two local films and a TV commercial. Don Stolz, of the Old Log Theatre, was a regular and Jimmy "Mr. Jimmy" Hutmaker used the shop for his "official" control center. Oh, if these walls could only talk!

Located on 243 Water Street, the structure that houses the barbershop was erected in 1948 on a vacant lot next to present day Leipold's Gifts and Antiques. According to Darel and LaVerna Leipold, it was built by the Elliot family specifically to be used as a barbershop. This long narrow brick building with only a large window and door, was perfect for its intent. There was just enough room for a long counter, mirror, barber chairs and waiting area.

In January 1949, Anthony [Tony] Zembrycki, a barber in Excelsior, leased the building, moved in, hung a "Tony's Barber Shop" sign outside and opened his business. About 10 years later his son Ed Zembrycki joined him. They both were avid hunters and fishermen, so it was natural that the wood paneled walls and shelves soon became jam-packed with decoys, stuffed game animals and birds. Through the years, the father and son team established a loyal following that was able to weather market downturns, changing hair styles and the push for more chic restaurants and shops.

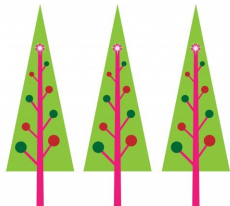
In 1985 and 1987 Tony's Barber Shop was elevated to "star" status when it was featured in two made-for-cable movies. The films "All Too Common Valor" and "The Mob Boss" were produced/co-written by John Hawkins, a recent Minnetonka graduate. Hawkins shot around the Lake Minnetonka/Excelsior area, using Tony's Barber Shop in some of the scenes. A low budget necessitated an all-volunteer cast which was easily filled with local people. One of them was Ed (the barber) Zembrycki who starred in the lead role as Mr. Bigg. It was reported that the actors made up their own **(continued on pg. 2)**

ELMHS Members Only Holiday Party

Tuesday, December 3 | 6pm to 8pm.

312 Water St, Excelsior, MN 55331

**Excelsior-Lake Minnetonka Chamber of
Commerce Office**



***Please RSVP no later than Friday, November 29
at [MemberHolidayParty2019.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/MemberHolidayParty2019)***

or call (952)221-4766. Registration begins November 1.

PLEASE BRING A DISH TO SHARE! HOLIDAY HAM PROVIDED.

To purchase or renew a membership visit www.elmhs.org or call (952)221-4766

On the cutting edge, continued from pg. 1

character names and were allowed to ad-lib. The 90 minute films were aired on local cable TV, and one can assume the barber shop was standing-room only for the premieres.

Tony's Barber Shop also had the distinction of being featured in a 1988 TV commercial promoting the Star Tribune. Along with other metro locales, there was a shot of the barbershop with the claim that the *Star Tribune*, "gives the boys something to talk about." Because of this commercial, the *Sun Sailor* sent a reporter to find out just what the boys were talking about. The resulting article concluded that, "Excelsior is still a place where down-to-earth conversation and friendliness are not in short supply."

It has been 70 years since Tony first hung his sign outside the building on Water Street. There have been changes; Tony died in 1984 and Ed in 2018, and two barbers, Ralph Paro and Bill Flint Burch have taken up the helm. But what hasn't changed is the genuine feel of Excelsior history. The interior still

sports the same wood paneling, taxidermy, vintage barber chairs and even an original "Mob Boss" poster featuring Ed the barber. But more importantly what has not changed is the welcoming feel of a small town barbershop that the Zembrycki men first created. No wonder, generations have passed through its threshold. Let's hope it will continue for another 70 years.



Image: Tony's Barber Shop, 2011. (Courtesy Scott McGinnis)

Annual Meeting Update

Our annual meeting was held on Tuesday, June 11 at the South Shore Center. The 40+ members in attendance enjoyed a pizza dinner at 6 PM, with President Deanna Bunkelman calling the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Deanna also recognized Director Emeritus Betty Peck's attendance. Betty was one of the early members of the Society and has been involved for 45 years.

The Society's financial performance in fiscal year 2019 was significantly better than planned. A large loss was projected due to the hiring of a new Executive Director, but actual loss was under \$4,000. Cash reserves remain strong.

Executive Director Rachel Houck provided an overview of some of the Society's accomplishments and activities over the year and some plans for the future. She thanked the many volunteers for their work across all of the Society's many activities and programs.

As is done each year, director elections were held. One new director (Andrew Punch) was elected unanimously and three directors (Tom Williams, Tad Shaw and Scott Dake) were re-elected unanimously.

The meeting ended with Deanna opening the floor for topics from members. Several topics were covered including the need for additional volunteers, ideas on increasing space for the ELMHS Archives, and how we may be able to partner with the City and other civic groups.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 PM. Please consider joining us next June for the 2020 Annual Meeting!

Scott Dake
ELMHS Secretary

From the President

Thanks to all of our members and friends who were able to attend our Annual Fundraiser at the Old Log Theatre in May. *On the Waters of Lake Minnetonka* was one of our best fundraisers ever!

When you attend one of our events this year, make sure and give a warm welcome to our newest board member, Andy Punch. Andy will be a valuable asset to ELMHS as we continue to strengthen our relationships with other area organizations. Andrew is a member of the Excelsior Masonic Lodge, the Power Squadron, and Rotary.

Thanks to the volunteers who helped at Art on the Lake. This was a great opportunity to share area history with the community and we love being a part of it every year. We were also able to sell a lot of merchandise from our gift shop which helps fund our efforts to preserve and collect the history of the south lake area.

If you come to Apply Day on September 21, be sure to stop and visit our ELMHS tent— don't forget to spread the word to your family and friends!

Deanna Bunkelman
ELMHS President

Seeking Volunteers for ELMHS Committees.

We are currently seeking volunteers to work on our public programs and communications committees, and to help host our museum during open hours. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact us!

Director@elmhs.org
952-221-4766

Public Programs

Monday, September 9 | 7:00pm (Doors open at 6pm)*

Tapping History: *End of the Road*

With Steve Kobs

At the Excelsior Brewing Company

421 Third St., Excelsior



While researching his own family history, Steve Kobs uncovered fascinating stories of the people who lived and died at the end of Excelsior's Third Street around 1900. Hear chronicled stories of sailing the high seas, opioids, Dan Patch, and women stunt bicyclists. Colorful family feuds, an insane asylum, and bird sanctuary come into play as fortunes are made and lost. Steve will also share tips about the ELMHS archives and other useful resources he used to learn more about the Milnors, Bells and Savages.

Monday, October 14 | 5:30pm (note the earlier start time)

Oak Hill Cemetery Tour

With Scott D. McGinnis

No Brewery Presentation

Join historian Scott D. McGinnis at the top of Oak Hill as he leads a tour of historic Oak Hill Cemetery—Excelsior's burial ground since the 1850's. Scott will highlight the lives and deaths of the area's settlers and will answer questions about those buried here. [Tour includes steep and uneven terrain.]



Monday, November 11 | 7:00 pm (Doors open at 6pm)*

Tapping History: *Big Island Archaeology*

With Ann Merriman and Christopher Olson of Maritime Heritage Minnesota

At the Excelsior Brewing Company

421 Third St., Excelsior



Join us as Ann Merriman and Christopher Olson from Maritime Heritage Minnesota update us on the underwater and maritime archaeology of Lake Minnetonka. Their latest project for the city of Orono focuses on the Big Island Steamboat Pier, Amusement Park, and Veteran's Camp Site (21-HE-402).

Saturday, December 7 | 10 - 11:30am
Old Fashioned Holiday Story and Craft

at the Excelsior Library, 337 Water St, Excelsior

This year we are proud to partner with the Excelsior branch of the Hennepin County Library for a fun and educational winter **children's** program which includes a story read by a *costumed interpreter*, a craft, and group songs. For more information, including registration, visit www.hclib.org.



Monday, December 9 | 7:00 pm (Doors open at 6pm)*
Tapping History: *Preserving Your Family History*

With Rachel Houck

At the Excelsior Brewing Company
421 Third St., Excelsior

“What do I do with grandma’s wedding dress? How should I organize and store my old family photos?” At this special Tapping History ELMHS Executive Director, Rachel Houck, will cover good, better, and best practices for storing or displaying your priceless family heirlooms.



Monday, January 13 | 7:00 pm (Doors open at 6pm)
Tapping History: *Trivia Night*

At the Excelsior Brewing Company
421 Third St., Excelsior

Test your knowledge at this special Tapping History. Topics will cover the history of Excelsior, Lake Minnetonka, Minnesota and the United States. Prizes given will be based on the most questions answered correctly. More details including registration and team information will be available on our website by November 1, 2019. If you would like to help organize this event, please contact us by email at info@elmhs.org, or by phone (952)221-4766



****Members are now able to reserve seats for select brewery programs.***
For more program information visit www.elmhs.org

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:** Create new programs, set up and take down for Tapping History, welcoming people.
- **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.)



Major George Halstead at his "Hermitage" in Minnetrista, discovered and donated by Excelsior's Lori Anderson while remodeling her historic home.

Thanks for your support!
NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS, AND CONTRIBUTORS
April 1—July 31, 2019

MEMBERSHIPS

Platinum Level

Scott & Joey Dake
Dan & Brittney Johnson

Gold Level

Jennifer Morris
John Strandell
Ronald Wheeler
Tom & Jeanie Williams

Silver Level

Cheryl Ahlcrona & Carl Floren
Aaron & Angie Bean
Ann Heimerl
Duffy Larsen-Abramson & Dave Abramson
Bruce & Jodi Noll
Nell Ray
Barbara Spannaus
Kyle & Melissa Uittenbogaard
Gretchen Wahlstedt

Bronze Level

Jeff & Molly Bailey
Kerry & Bitta Barnard
Patrick Dupont
Todd McGonagle
Ruth McLeod
Jodi Naylor
John & Alice Reimann
Julia Sherf
Alan Tollefson
Suzanne Woodrich
Lawayne Yaeger

Household Level

Maud Duggan
Jerry & Justin Holl
Karen & Jim Kertzman
Katrinka Sharpe
Bonnie Siakel
Tim Stolz
Robert & Nan Woodburn

Individual Level

Brianna Bolin
Conley Brooks
Kathy Endres
Rebecca Koehler
Ken Kotzer
Francesca Landon
Gary Marquardt
Martha Mayer
Thomas McCarthy
Andrew Punch
Jonathon Raymond
Annie Schilling
Pat Smith
Jake Sturgis
William Sweatt
Mary Upgren

Liz Vandam
Ron Wagner
Deborah Zachman
Bartosz Zienda

Senior/Student Level

Jerald Anderson
Mary Ellen Bennett
Ellie Brockman
Maureen Burns
Sharon Collins
Jane Cox
Carole Cranbrook
Rolf Erickson
Jean Erickson
Max Green
Jim LaHaye
James Larsen
Paul Maravelas
Jerry Martin
Kathleen Martin
Sherri McCallson
Jerry McCallson
Leone McGlone
Lenore Miller
Renee Nagel
Bob Nygaard
Betty Peck
Bradley Skramstad
Sally Sprengeler
Deanne Straka
Kathy Suddendorf
Mark Swedlund
Rosemary Whowell
Theresa Zerby

CONTRIBUTORS

Michael Barnard
Denis Burand
Maureen Burns
Tom Burton
Rolf Erickson
Ron McDaniel
Jane Nibbe
Jack Post
Jane Stein
Jim Stiller
Deanne Straka
Katherine Van de Ruijtenbeek
Robert & Nan Woodburn

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTORS

Anna Ko Photography
Big Thrill Factory
Birch's on the Lake
By the Lake MK Design
Club Pilates of Minnetonka
Coalition
Epitome
Excelsior Brewing Company
General Store of Minnetonka
Haskell's

Hazellewood Grill and Tap Room
Houck's Carpenter Shop Inc.
Joey Novas
Kowalski's
Lake Minnetonka Sailing School
Lake Minnetonka Sailing School
Lakewinds Food Co-Op
Minnesota Historical Society
Minnesota Streetcar Museum, Excelsior
Minnetonka Community Ed.
Olive's Fresh Pizza
Paradise Cruises
Sanctuary Salonspa
Spasso
Spirit of the Lake Yoga
Sweet Nautical Boutique
The Landschute Group
Tonkadale Nursery
Victoria Burrow
Wayzata Cosmetic Surgery & Spa

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
Dr. & Mrs. Randy Julian
Terrance Kellogg
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Johnson
Mark Knowlton
Tom & Carol Knowlton
Michael Kramer
Ann Lundsten
Scott D. McGinnis
Minnesota Streetcar Museum
Robert L. Naas
Bill & Steph Naegele
Aaron Person
Sharon Provost
Kellie & Gary Ringate
Kathy Knowlton Schmid
Carol Schmidt
Dr. Milton H. Seifert
Lisa Stevens & Jeffrey Hatcher
Tad Shaw
Rodney Thompson
TSP Architecture, Inc.
Ruth Witrak

ACCESSIONS

April 1—July 31, 2019

Thank you for allowing us to preserve your history for future generations!

- **Molly Ruzecka:** 86 color photographs of houses torn down in Excelsior.
- **Martin Johnson:** Cabinet card photograph of August Hay.
- **Mary Lou Bemis:** Eight color photographs of the steamboat Minnehaha.
- **Rod Thompson:** Collector coin from the Minnetonka Country Club. Tennis shoes of Abby Thompson circa 1900.

If you have artifacts you would like to donate to the society, contact us

By phone (952)221-4766 or email info@elmhs.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PO Box 305
Excelsior MN 55331

