



Preserving the past as a gift to the future.

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OUR INVITATION

Dear Friend:

We request your help in supporting an exciting new initiative for the City of Sault Ste. Marie.

In the spring of 2011 a volunteer committee was formed to discuss ways in which our community heritage could be documented and preserved for all time. We looked for ways to manage and maintain decades of tradition.

We decided the best way to do this would be through videotaped conversations with community members, many who have had a lifetime of local history wrapped up in memories as well as others who have made a powerful and enduring impact on our development, traditions and character.

The response so far has been extremely positive, almost overwhelming. We've learned about the process of collecting and maintaining oral histories through ongoing research and hands on experience. Now, as part of our official launch, we are reaching out to businesses such as yours to make the full potential of this project a reality.

On behalf of the Oral History of Sault Ste. Marie, we are honoured to invite you to become an **inaugural sponsor** of this unique archival documentation of our community as told through the individual voices of our residents. Please take a few moments to explore the opportunities that are available to sponsors.

This initiative belongs to all of us. Join in and become part of preserving our past as a gift to the future.

Kindest Regards,

Cathy Shunock, Wendy Hamilton, Karen Montgomery-Jones, Madge Sanderson and Joanne Farkas.

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MISSION AND PROCESS

Our Mission

With every passing day we lose the recollections of the people who have lived through some pivotal times in our city's evolution. Now, with the development of affordable digital technology, we can preserve those recollections for generations to come. The individual family story becomes the story of a neighbourhood, of the evolution of our industry, of our local businesses, and of our long standing traditions and unique civic character. The mission of the OHSSM is to capture those recollections on videotape and preserve them in a safe accessible place for future generations. The objective is to represent people from all walks of life and all facets of our community.

The Process

The Oral History of Sault Ste. Marie is overseen by a volunteer OHSSM Committee in partnership with a designated public archive. Each interview is taped by a professional videographer. More conversation, than interview, the length and content is not censored or edited and can take place in their home or other location of choice. To date these conversations have been an average length of 30 minutes but some have been an hour or more.

Each session begins with the person's full name, date and location of birth. This information is included off the top of the packaged DVD. One copy of the DVD is presented as a Keepsake and thank you to the interviewee while another DVD is donated to the public archive and uploaded to an on-line virtual library. A release form must be signed before the interview becomes part of the archive.

Sault Ste. Marie has a very unique history in Canada as our city has been on maps since the days of Samuel DeChamplain. No wonder we have SO many stories in our city. And we have only just begun!

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2014 PROJECT GOALS

The goals set forth by the spearhead committee for 2014, are as follows:

Complete capturing of the first 100 stories:

Thanks to a \$5,000 Cultural grant from the City of Sault Ste. Marie and a handful of small private donations by individuals, 40 stories have already been captured. We have compiled a list of more than two hundred potential storytellers mainly through casual suggestion. The list grows every day.

Launch the Public Archive:

We are presently working with the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library to create a partnership that will establish a safe and accessible home for the conversations recorded. The Oral History of Sault Ste. Marie archive is maintained in three ways: as pre-recorded DVDs for screening purposes; as a digital virtual library online throughout the world; and as raw digital files for use by documentarians, researchers, educators, historians, students and citizens anywhere, anytime.

Establish a Future:

This is a project that has an unlimited future and our goal is to establish the working committee framework, guidelines and methodology to launch the Oral History of Sault Ste. Marie as a community activity for many generations. Much work has been done in laying the groundwork for this through research of other oral history projects and hands on experience. Some accomplishments to date include: developing website, interviewee preparation kit; growing team of interviewers and videographer; identifying logo and slogan; committee vision and constitution; this sponsorship package. We have successfully turned an idea, into a reality and now, **the future hinges on funding and community ownership.**

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SPONSORSHIP GUIDE

PLATINUM LEVEL

\$2,000 plus

- Name & logo listed as Platinum Sponsor on website
- Name & logo on any promotional material
- Name & logo on portable signage for fundraising events
- Company listed as sponsor on any media releases & articles
- Company listed as Platinum sponsor on public plaque
- Name & logo on DVD Cover Insert–keepsake & archive copy

GOLD LEVEL

\$1,000 plus

- Name & logo listed as Gold Sponsor on website
- Name & logo on any promotional material
- Name & logo on portable signage for fundraising events
- Company listed as sponsor on any media releases & articles
- Company listed as Gold sponsor on public plaque
- Name & logo on DVD Cover Insert–keepsake & archive copy

SILVER LEVEL

\$500 plus

- Recognition as Silver level sponsor on website
- Recognition as sponsor on media releases & articles
- Company listed as Silver sponsor on public plaque

BRONZE LEVEL

\$250 plus

- Recognition as Bronze level sponsor on website

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WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES

Your donation dollars are “action” dollars. They finance the actual video recording of stories.

Video Production

It is important, especially in this inaugural phase of the project, to engage knowledgeable videographers. Each videotaped conversation incurs a cost of \$250.00 in order to maintain quality. Included in this 250.00 is the creation of a packaged Keepsake DVD for interviewees and an archival DVD.

Project Purchases

While the OHSSM committee does not have the overhead expense of an office, the information folders and preparation folders for interviewees do cost money. We would also like to expand the team of videographers by purchasing a professional production kit. Some equipment and costs currently on our supply list are as follows:

- Video Backdrop
- Basic Office Supplies
- Printing Costs for promotional material
- Printing Costs for DVD cover inserts
- Production Kit

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THE STORIES THUS FAR

Deborah Amaroso
 Jim Ardito
 Neil Ayers
 Dorothy Bonnell
 Aurora Butkovich
 Norman Candelori
 Connie Cipparone
 Ricordo Castellani
 Tony DeVoni
 Marion Desimone
 Joe Desimone
 Aldo Diotallevi
 Laura Erlandson-Tucci
 Alfio Gasparelli
 Bill Grunewald
 Alex Harry
 Amelia Hopkins
 Ed Houston
 Richard Howard
 Mildred Jackson
 Dorothy Kutcher
 Ken Lajambe
 Bert Luciani
 Lou Lukenda
 Gladys MacLachlan
 Joseph Mancuso
 Nick Marinelli
 Emily McCool
 Jim McIntyre
 Elizabeth Isabel Monaco
 Reno-Vabio Monaco
 George Norman
 Enrica Pedinelli
 Dom Santana
 Mary Santana
 Michael Sanzosti
 Peter Scarfone
 Ray Stortini
 Norman Tucci
 Gene Ubriaco
as of July, 2013

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GET IN TOUCH

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