

Historical Society Ready to Unveil The Wonders of Williams Bay!



Mastodons

Williams Bay may seem to be a quiet little village, but unbeknownst to most of its residents, there are "wonders" to be found on its byways and back roads. The Williams Bay Historical Society is unveiling these wonders to the public on Saturday October 18th, with a free historical tour. Called "The Wonders of Williams Bay Historical Tour", its format allows tour guests to visit as many of the "Wonders" as they like and at their own speed, allowing for a quick or an extended visit at each location. Historical Society docents will be at each site from 10 am to 3 pm to explain the historical significance & answer questions at each location.

The Williams Bay Historical Society has discovered that most residents are extremely interested in the history of Williams Bay. Their Historical Exhibit a year ago drew in over 500 visitors in the month it was open. Membership in the Historical Society has grown from 8 members to almost 100. The public was urging for another "Blast from the Past" when Williams Bay Historical Society Board member Greg Trush suggested a historical tour. Initially meant to be a bus tour, it was decided that the current "visit the site yourself" tour would be more user friendly. " You can do as little or as much as your schedule permits on a busy Saturday in October" said Historical Society member Deb Soplanda, " I love the format - it allows you to focus on the areas of Williams Bay History that interests you the most."

The tour's starting point will be the Pavilion in Edgewater Park next to the Williams Bay Firehouse. There, tour guests will pick up a map and brochure explaining the "Wonders" and view several historical displays, as well as purchase the popular Williams Bay 2015 historical calendar and note card series.

Several “wonders” will be convenient to walk to along the lake front, others must be driven to. At each location, Williams Bay Historical Society docents will be on hand to explain the historical significance of each site and to answer questions. Guests are especially encouraged to visit Yerkes Observatory for one of their free Saturday morning tours at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., and 12 p.m. Many residents have never toured Yerkes Observatory - this is a way for them to enjoy not only the observatory, but many of the little remembered locations that have historical significance. Tour participants can stay at a location as little or as long as they wish.

Other “Wonders of Williams Bay” will include George Williams College of Aurora University, the first home site in Williams Bay, the Ancient Burial Ground, and more. Twelve points of interest were identified for this tour. Tour participants will be given a “Williams Bay Historical Tour” bingo card and those who visit all sites will receive a one-of-a-kind Williams Bay Historical Society Christmas ornament as a special memento of the event when they turn in the card back at the Pavilion upon completion of their tour.

About Williams Bay Historical Society

The Williams Bay Historical Society was established in October 2013. Membership is \$15 for adults, \$25 for families per year. Other types of memberships are available as well. For membership information, click on the ***Contact Us*** button.