

Boyne Heritage Center Receives Inaugural Donation

In a special ceremony, Liesel Litzenburger Meijer presented to the new nonprofit, Boyne Heritage Center, its first major donation of \$15,000 plus a \$10,000 match. Her gift will go toward the construction of the historical interpretive center to be housed in the Boyne City City Hall.

Meijer commented *"I think you are doing a GREAT thing for Boyne...it will be fun to be an early part of this super project."*

Responding to the wishes of the community, the Boyne Heritage Center has set its goal to become a world-class collaborative historical hub, preserving and promoting the stories of Boyne City, Boyne Falls, Walloon Lake, Advance, Ironton, Horton Bay, and surrounding townships.

The City of Boyne City will house the Boyne Heritage Center, but the new nonprofit will assume governance and management. A board of directors has been formed, bylaws written and strategic planning done. Plans are to hire an executive director and support staff to manage, promote and develop the center for continued growth and expansion.

A professional museum design firm, Project Arts & Ideas of Dearborn, was contracted to design the exhibit. The first two of four phases of the design are complete, with the final two stages being production design and installation.

Future visitors to the Boyne Heritage Center will feel transported through time as they experience the engaging and memorable exhibit titled "Boyne Before Us." The exhibit will tell the story of how the extraordinary gifts of land and water attracted people over thousands of years to the Boyne region. After settlement in the early 1800s, the explosive harvest of these gifts, through lumbering and industry, built the region but left the land exploited and abandoned. In revival, the Boyne community has embraced a sustainable economy that enjoys, protects and shares these gifts in the present and for future generations. This is our heritage and our legacy.

In addition to the interpretive exhibit, the Boyne Heritage Center will offer programs, services, events and online resources to preserve and promote the history of our area.

Michelle Cortright expresses the community's enthusiasm, *"In Boyne, we treasure our history. The Boyne Heritage Center is going to showcase our treasures in a unique and creative way."*

Excited about this project, interested in donating or serving on the board? For more information, visit our website www.BoyneHeritage.org or contact Kecia Freed 231-622-2492, keciafreed@gmail.com.