

PRESS RELEASE

Event celebrates Hemingway's "real summer home" in Horton Bay

The 2nd Annual Horton Bay summer celebration on August 25 of young Ernie Hemingway's teen years in the small community just five miles west of Boyne City is the focus of a 5 p.m. party at the Horton Bay General Store and a free screening of a new documentary on those years at the United Methodist Church at 7 p.m.

Organizers of the event are promising some interesting story-telling - "oral history" - not often found in the many books written by scholars about Ernie's time in our area during the first 2 decades of the 20th century. Chris Struble, president of the Michigan Hemingway Society, will lead the discussion. Partygoers are encouraged to join in as well with any stories they have heard from friends and family members.

Ernie and the friends he made in Horton Bay - locals as well as summer people - were regular visitors to Boyne City in the wild days when lumber was king. Robin Lee Berry, co-owner of the Freshwater Art Gallery, has been busy in recent months collecting tales of Boyne City in young Hemingway's time. It is part of a young Hemingway "portal" she is creating at the gallery. "Hidden history is her name for these fascinating tales.

In addition to the story telling, there will be music, readings of some Nick Adams stories, and a cash bar.

Community activists in Horton Bay plan to attend and enliven the evening with some important issues on their minds. A number of residents have been complaining over the past two years that the statue of young Ernie that was erected on Hemingway's birthday in 2017 in Petoskey's Pennsylvania Park is misplaced. The statue, they insist, "belongs here in Horton Bay where Ernie was busy creating Nick Adams and his adventures, stories that live on as great American literature."

G.T. Long, a local resident and author of two books about contemporary Horton Bay, will address the partygoers with his views on the subject. In the audience will be Andy Sacksteder, sculptor of the new Hemingway statue, according to event organizers.

It promises to be a fun evening. Because of the overflow crowd last year, reservations are advised. Call 231.535.2440 to save your space. Tickets will cost \$5 at the door. The film will cost an additional \$10 which will guarantee a seat in church and a DVD copy of the documentary. Writer-Producer George Colburn will introduce the film and answer questions after.

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