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**EARLY GREAT LAKES SHIPWRECK RESCUE STORY
HIGHLIGHTS APRIL 13 HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING**

APRIL 1, 2011 -- A story-presentation about the unsung heroes who rescued sailors from Great Lakes shipwrecks in the early 19th century will highlight the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society meeting on Wednesday, April 13. The meeting convenes at 7:00 p.m. in the Old School House History Center, 130 Center Street, Douglas. Admission is free and public attendance is invited.

The program will feature a modern adaptation of a real 1852 Saugatuck shipwreck, dramatized in the style of the popular 1960s Walter Cronkite television show "You Are There", which brought historical events into the family living room. Scripted and performed by students of Saugatuck High School's Advanced Placement Language & Composition teacher Mike Shaw, the presentation is part of the Society's Francis-Gallinipper Lifesaving Boat project, which is creating a permanent exhibit for the Old School House garden walk targeted for construction this summer.

The garden walk, planned as a "Back-In-Time Pathway", will wind through a series of topical "learning areas" that explore various facets of our area's history, featuring a peach orchard, a Mt. Baldhead viewing station, children's garden and schoolyard games, and a rhododendron garden, among others. Its crown jewel will be "Rowing Them Home: Shipwrecks and Lifesaving on the Great Lakes," a pavilion showcasing the Society's rare restored Francis Lifesaving Boat "Gallinipper" while giving visitors a unique window into Lake Michigan maritime history and its impact on our area.

The student-developed program, hosted by Shaw and Lifeboat Project coordinator Jim Schmiechen, will provide the text and voices for recorded narration to be heard at the garden exhibit.

For general information about the Historical Society, its Museum and its Old School House History Center, visit www.sdhistoricalsociety.org.

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Caption:

Saugatuck High School Advanced Placement Language & Composition students who created "You Are There" style dramatization of early shipwreck rescue heroics for Historical Society program (L to R):

Front Row -- Caroline Williams, Kelli Gallagher, Courtney Smeenge, Halie Williams, Emily Fisher, Moses Troyer; **Middle Row** -- Heather Price, Shelby Gort, Kyle Beery, Galib Braschler, Monica Nye, Josh Marczuk, Kelseigh Hofmeyer, Jessica Klaus, Sal Maicki; **Back Row** -- Henry Holmes, Nathan Winter, Nicole Van Loon, Jane Wiley, Sig Steiger, Mike Piggins, Sam Freestone, Alex Winter