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**PUBLIC INVITED TO TEST SELF-LED DOUGLAS TOUR
ADDED TO HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S FREE MOBILE APP**

MAY 5, 2016 – The public is invited to a free party hosted by J. Petter Galleries on Sunday, May 22 to test-drive -- or more appropriately, test-walk -- a new self-led historical tour of downtown Douglas being added to the Historical Society's mobile app. The party will conclude with a special prize drawing and the auctioning off of an historical painting of Saugatuck's Big Pavilion, with proceeds benefitting the Historical Society.

The party begins at 3:30 p.m. at J. Petter Galleries, 161 N. Blue Star Highway, just off the Douglas end of Blue Star's Kalamazoo River bridge. Those wanting to attend are asked to RSVP for reservation no later than May 15 by e-mailing info@sdhistoricalsociety.org or calling 269-857-5751.

The new downtown Douglas walking tour expands the functionality of a free mobile app released last November by the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society for Apple and Android smartphones and tablets. It has since been available for download through Apple Store and Google Play Store, found by searching "Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society".

Those attending the May 22 party are urged to bring their own smartphone/tablet; those without such personal devices will be partnered with others who have them. Help will be available to assist with downloading the app and following its guidance to Center Street to learn about a few sites selected for the tour. Volunteers will accompany guests to answer any questions. All will then return to the J. Petter Galleries to discuss their experience, and enjoy a complementary glass of champagne and light refreshments.

Highlighting the reception, host Juli Petter will auction a painting of the Big Pavilion, unique in that it was started on-location by Juli's mother, Mary-Ann Perry, just before the Pavilion burned down, and recently completed when she revisited the work at age 91. Perry, co-founder of Grand Valley Artists (www.grandvalleyartists.com/about) along with Bill Kubiak, Armand Merizon and Carl Forsund, is a past instructor at Kendall School of Art and Design and Aquinas College.

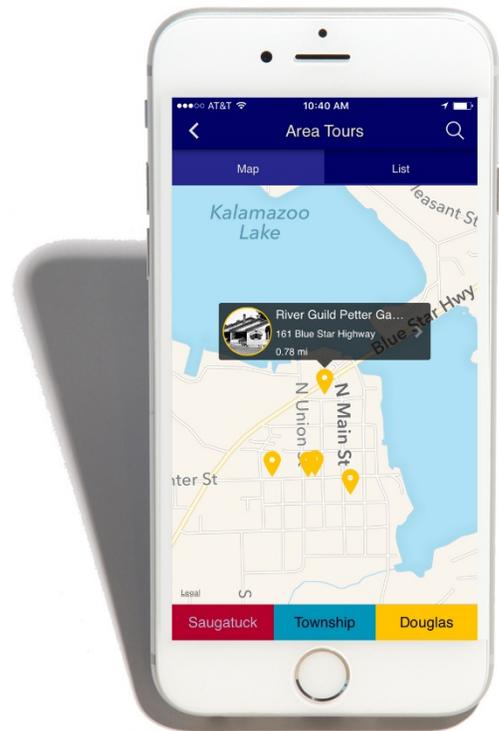
The SDHS app was conceived by 2015 summer intern Samuel Fitzpatrick, then a senior at Central Michigan University, as a way to make the Society's exhibits and programs more inviting to tech-savvy visitors. It blossomed into a more comprehensive application with broader functionality as Fitzpatrick collaborated with Society volunteer Julie Abel, who donated the time and talents of her Douglas firm JabberDesign to this project.

Among its still-expanding variety of functions, the app lets users virtually visit Society facilities such as the History Museum at Mt. Baldhead or the Old School House in Douglas and its Back-In-Time Garden,

even during the “off-season” and other times when these properties may not be open. It also allows users to peruse the Society’s permanent collection of artworks and growing archive of historical photographs, records and newspapers, view social media and YouTube videos of popular programming, even purchase SDHS books and videos or donate to this 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

As a result, users can interact with the Historical Society from anywhere in the world to keep up with breaking news, learn about Society activities and upcoming public programs, and add events-of-interest to their personal calendars.

To learn more about the Historical Society, its Old School House History Center in Douglas and History Museum in Saugatuck, upcoming activities and volunteer opportunities, visit www.sdhistoricalsociety.org.



Highlighting the party on Sunday, May 22, J Petter Galleries will auction this Mary-Ann Perry painting of the Big Pavilion, started before the Pavilion burned, but finished just recently.