



OLD SCHOOL HOUSE
HISTORY CENTER

SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS
HISTORY MUSEUM

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S JULY 5 "TUESDAY TALK"
VISUALIZES LOCAL NATIVE AMERICAN TRADITION

JUNE 24, 2016 -- A photographic visit with Native Americans of West Michigan will highlight this summer's first Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society "Tuesday Talk" on July 5 the Old School House History Center, 130 Center Street, Douglas. The one-hour program begins when the school bell rings at 11 a.m. Public attendance is invited and audience participation is welcomed to enrich the discussion.

Tuesday Talk admission is free for current S-DHS members. Non-member guests are encouraged to attend with a donation of five dollars, or become new members with initial dues payment at the Talk. For all, limited space puts seating on "first-come, first-served" basis.

Professional photographer James Cook will show and narrate scenes and portraits from a 2015 *powwow*, telling the story of that traditional gathering and its organization, featuring individuals in ceremonial dress and the significance of their outfits. Throughout the talk he'll reference the history of the three Algonquin nations that settled in this area -- Pottawatomi, Ottawa and Chippewa -- their interactions with the European influx, and where they are today.

Cook moved to Saugatuck eleven years ago from Colorado, where he had become a recognized photojournalist working for the nation's leading magazines and newspapers. His decades-long work with Native Americans was featured in a nationally broadcast PBS documentary on contemporary photographers and is included in the permanent collection of the Smithsonian Institution.

Since arriving here, his photographic attention has turned to our lakeshore. The resulting images have been frequent parts of the Society's History Museum exhibits and are available at Saugatuck's GoodGoods shop as fine-art prints. He is co-founder of the Saugatuck Photographic Workshops, along with his wife, Kathleen Miller Cook.

Cook has served on the SDHS board since 2009 as the tech liaison and was the principal author of the apolitical S-DHS policy statement regarding development of the lakeshore.

A summer tradition since 1996, Tuesday Talks present entertaining and informative insights into our community life weekly throughout July and August. This Tuesday Talk is sponsored by Gun Lake Casino in Wayland, MI.

The Gun Lake Tribe (historically Chief Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish's Band of Pottawatomi Indians) is part of the historic Three Fires Confederacy, an alliance of the Pottawatomi (Bodewadmi), Ottawa (Odawa), and Chippewa (Ojibwe). At the start of the 19th century this Band inhabited the Kalamazoo River valley, with their primary village located at the head of the Kalamazoo River.

For more information about the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society, its Museum and Old School House History Center, or its activities planned for 2016, visit www.sdhistoricalsociety.org.

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Among the photos at the Historical Society's July 5 "Tuesday Talk", Garth Butler, an Ojibwe (Chippewa) from Howard City, carries a hand-carved war club and wears a chief's redcoat, an antique beaver-skin hat and below his knees, sashes made with deer-toe rattles. Red coats were sometimes given to chiefs as gifts from the British and became prized possessions. The 17th century fur-trading Hudson Bay Company continued gifting red coats to chiefs who had been friendly and of service to them.