

SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS HISTORY CENTER

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ART CONSERVATION SECRETS AIRED IN JUNE 13 SDHC PUBLIC PROGRAM

JUNE 1, 2018 -- The secrets of restoring and conserving fine art will be revealed at Saugatuck-Douglas History Center's next free monthly program on Wednesday, June 13, starting at 7:00 p.m. as a special "field trip" to, and in partnership with, the Saugatuck Woman's Club (SWC). Their iconic "Williamsburg Colonial"-style hall at 303 Butler Street in Saugatuck enters off Hoffman Street east of Butler. As always, public attendance is invited and audience participation is welcomed to enrich the discussion.

Presenters Kari and Peter Fenwood, of Holland's Miller Fenwood Restoration, will explain the problems that beset fine art as it ages, and the techniques conservators use to "turn back the clock". Showing examples of their craft, including restored artworks from the SWC collection, they will discuss both paintings and works on paper, as well as issues specific to framing.

Kari studied fine arts and art history at Aquinas College (Grand Rapids) and Yale University in the 1970s and went on to gain a broad repertoire of experiences with conservation firms, museums, colleges, libraries and estates in the New York-Washington, DC area before returning to Michigan in 1995. She serves as conservator to Holland Museum, Hope College and Vassar College (NY), as well as consultant to Grand Valley State University.

Peter has worked for more 30 years in the world of fine art, primarily with high quality custom frame makers and conservators in New York City, before embarking on his own endeavors in custom frames, art installation and fine art services. With Kari, Peter specializes in creating historically accurate frames that are artwork-specific.

"This behind-the-scenes look at methods of professional art conservation is something the public seldom gets to see," says SDHC Executive Director Nathan Nietering. "Even notable institutions like the Grand Rapids Art Museum and Kalamazoo Institute of Arts rarely offer programming that explains the actual conservation process. And, locating this expert presentation in our SWC venue adds the bonus of visiting a beautiful architectural and artistic destination."

Saugatuck-Douglas History Center's free monthly program series presents entertaining and informative insights into local history and community life. This month's program is sponsored by S-DHC members Michael & Elinor White and Marianne & Michael Giersch, along with Dawn Stafford's Peachbelt Studio in Fennville.

For more information about the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center, its Museum in Saugatuck and Old School House in Douglas, and its activities planned for 2018, visit www.MySDHistory.org.



Restoration in progress: photo exemplifies the conservator's work in reawakening the original vibrance of this age-darkened nautical painting, using techniques to be discussed at the June 13 SDHC public program.