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**LAST CHANCE TO SEE 2016 MUSEUM EXHIBITION;
DOORS CLOSE FOR THE WINTER AFTER OCTOBER 30**

OCT. 21, 2016 -- This coming weekend offers the final opportunity to see this year's exhibition at the Saugatuck-Douglas History Museum. Open Saturday and Sunday, October 29-30, from Noon to 4 p.m., the exhibition revisits multiple stories of how the Kalamazoo River and Lake Michigan have shaped and reshaped our area's way of living, working, relaxing and thinking since the mid-1800s. After Sunday's closing, the exhibition will be removed to make way for an all-new and different 2017 exhibition now in planning stages.

The Museum occupies the historic Saugatuck Pump House at 735 Park Street, in a scenic garden setting along the west shore of the Kalamazoo River at Mt. Baldhead Park, a short walk north from the Saugatuck Chain Ferry's west-bank landing. Admission and nearby parking are free.

Its digital guestbook officially logged more than 6,000 indoor visitors this year, drawn here from around half of the states ranging coast-to-coast and border-to-border, plus a few other countries, notably Canada and Germany. The guestbook tally has no way of including many more who came to see the Museum's riverside garden at times when the building was closed.

Titled "*Water...A River, A Lake, A Place Called Saugatuck-Douglas*", the main exhibition engages visitors' imaginations to accompany five travelers, each at different points in time, sharing the experience, discovery and sometimes danger of their adventures along our waterways. Their trips unfold in maps, pictures, narratives and artifacts, plus "side stories" that add interesting cultural perspectives, all set before a vast composite mural of more than 200 historical archive photos that help visualize those earlier times.

Nearby, three display stations feature a review of water quality comparing lake, river, rain and tap water; a collection of rare antique fishing lures; and for visitors of all ages, a fish-identification game. Floating above it all is a fanciful "school" of fish, created by local artists Ted Reyda and Sally Winthers, representing the species currently inhabiting our area's lakes and rivers.

Special highlights added earlier this year include a display about the Pump House -- originally Saugatuck's first municipal water pumping station -- commemorating its recent listing on both the National and State Registers of Historic Places and placement of a state Historical Marker. It features a slide show that recalls the process of building the water system, and the near-destruction and subsequent restoration of the building with an adjacent garden.

Also introduced this year, a Big Pavilion display shows a rarely seen 1909 aerial view of "America's second-largest dance hall" during its construction and a scale-model version of that famous building in an early stage, by local model-builder Arnie Schafer. Another addition is the "Red Letter Photo Challenge", a photo-identification game inviting visitors to match red-letter-marked exhibit images with a sheet of site or event descriptions.

Continuing the Society's tradition of offering locally authored books created to accompany exhibits past and present, the Museum's south gallery gift shop highlights the popular Big Pavilion book by Saugatuck author-historian Kit Lane, telling the story of the town's grandest attraction from its construction to the day it burned down in May of 1960.

The south gallery also features the Society's popular "SuperMap" -- a 6-foot high, 12-foot wide illustrated color wall map of the Saugatuck-Douglas area with an interactive computer display to provide a virtual tour through these historic villages, highlighting significant people, places and events of both past and present.

Nearly 70 map-highlighted references are keyed by number to let visitors select and learn about sites of interest by calling up information, narratives and images using a video/interactive touch-screen terminal near the map. The screen also offers topical "interactive programs" such as *History of Hotels/Boarding Houses*; *History of Boatbuilding and Boat Builders*; *Buildings and Architecture*; *Artists and Painting*; *Local Biographies*; *History of Saugatuck-Douglas Schools*; *13 Tales of the Villages* and *A Video History of Saugatuck and Douglas*.

In addition, the terminal allows public access to the Historical Society's digitized archives of historical photos, pages of *The Commercial Record* dating back to 1868, the Saugatuck-Douglas Building Survey and more.

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

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The History Museum's 2016 exhibition ends at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 30.