

SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS  
**HISTORY**  
CENTER

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SDHC'S NEW MT. BALDHEAD HOLIDAY ORNAMENT  
INTRODUCED AT SCA OUTDOOR HOLIDAY MARKET

NOV. 19, 2021 -- Just in time for the holidays, Saugatuck-Douglas History Center introduces its newly commissioned collectible holiday ornament commemorating Saugatuck's iconic Mt. Baldhead. The ornament will have its first public offering exclusively at Saugatuck Center for the Arts' Outdoor Holiday Market on Saturday, December 4, open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at 400 Culver St. in Saugatuck. After that, it will be available at the Old School House, 150 Center St. in Douglas.

Priced at \$50, this 4-inch-tall hanging ornament is hand-crafted in Poland and continues SDHC's tradition of celebrating our community's historic structures as holiday decorations. Fashioned in blown glass and hand-painted in brilliant colors, it depicts Mt. Baldhead and its daunting 303-step wooden stairway, topped with a Cold War era "Early Warning" radar tower wearing its traditional Christmas star.

Mt. Baldhead, a 205-ft wooded dune, was one of the sites chosen as "gap fillers" in a sophisticated air defense network created to watch over our northern border in the 1950s, during the Cold War between the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

This system collected data from hundreds of radar monitors across the country, feeding that information into one of the first true computer networks to keep an eye out for invaders. Because terrain obstructed radar signals along certain parts of the border, "gap filler" stations were needed to create a complete view of low-flying aircraft.

Eventually new technology took over and in 1968 the radar was deactivated, and the property was purchased by the city of Saugatuck. The structure is still intact, and efforts are underway to add it to Michigan's Register of Historic Places.

Saugatuck Center for the Art's Outdoor Holiday Market, hosting some 40 art and fine-craft vendors in the SCA parking lot, features greens, home decor, wearables, jewelry, paper goods, artisan baked goods and more. For Covid-19 safety, SCA is monitoring state guidelines and necessary restrictions will be clearly posted. For more information about the Holiday Market, contact [market@sc4a.org](mailto:market@sc4a.org) or call (269) 857-2399.

SDHC is supported in part by the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) and the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information about the History Center, its Museum in Saugatuck and Old School House in Douglas, and its activities planned for the months ahead, visit [www.MySDHistory.org](http://www.MySDHistory.org).

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PHOTO ATTACHED SEPARATELY (see jpeg "MBornament")

Caption: SDHC's commemorative Mt. Baldhead holiday ornament goes public on Dec. 4.

