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**MUSEUM'S 2015 WATER THEME EXPLORED
AT APRIL 8 HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROGRAM**

DOUGLAS (MI), MAR. 27, 2015 -- Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society's next monthly program offers its audience an interactive role in developing its History Museum's upcoming exhibition at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 8, in the Old School House History Center, 130 Center Street, Douglas. Admission is free and public attendance is invited.

Titled "*Saugatuck's Big Pool and Other Water Stories: A Preview of the 2015-16 Museum Exhibition*", the presentation will examine how much of our community's history has been connected to water and how that relationship has changed over time through eras of sturgeon fishing, steamship travel, loggers rafting millions of logs down the river, bridge building, the "Big Pool" and Oval Beach. This meeting's program is sponsored by Saugatuck resident and S-DHS member Lynne Snyder.

Presenter Jim Schmiechen, S-DHS History Museum curator, invites the audience to join him in asking questions and looking for answers in an interesting set of old photos culled from the Historical Society archives at the History Center, all of which illustrate moments in the sometimes happy and sometimes unhappy relationship between man and water.

"In the research, concept and writing phases of this exhibition," Schmiechen says, "I first reviewed several hundred historical photos. With that as a starting point, much of my work to-date has been to throw themes and stories at the SDHS exhibit planning group -- a hugely talented group made up of volunteer historians, designers, objects curators and exhibit installers. We felt that our monthly program audience might enjoy helping us identify photos for the exhibit and their remembrances might provide broader input for the short captions needed to explain them."

This program and audience interaction also will be helpful and interesting to anyone planning to volunteer as museum docents this summer, he adds.

For general information about the Historical Society, its History Museum in Saugatuck, Old School House History Center in Douglas, social activities and volunteer opportunities, visit www.sdhistoricalsociety.org.



Picture postcards such as this one from the S-DHS archives helped make the "Big Pool" one of Saugatuck's vacation highlights back in the 1920s