



Information Contacts:

Jim Sullivan
614.207.4047
jim@jamesbsullivan.com

John Peters
269.857.2967
jppubrel@gmail.com

HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S JULY 7 "TUESDAY TALK"
TELLS HISTORY, STATUS OF BLUE STAR TRAIL

JUNE 26, 2015 -- The history, status and plans for completing the Blue Star Trail will highlight this summer's first Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society "Tuesday Talk" on July 7 in the Old School House History Center, 130 Center Street, Douglas. The one-hour program begins when the school bell rings at 11 a.m. Admission is free, public attendance is invited and audience participation is welcomed to enrich the discussion.

"The Once and Future Trail -- Beating a Path to Saugatuck on Foot and Bicycle Through the Years", presented by *Friends Of The Blue Star Trail* board member Jim Sullivan, will overview progress in joining Saugatuck and South Haven with a 20-mile, non-motorized trail flanking the Blue Star Highway.

"We'll briefly trace the history of local Native American footpaths evolving into logging trails, then railroads, highways and now our local contribution to Michigan's trail system for biking, hiking and cross-country skiing," Sullivan says. "It's a story that weaves nicely into the development of Saugatuck and Douglas as our area's vacation trade took off a century ago."

His presentation reaches back to the 1890s, when Edward and Minnie Richardson and family of five children came here by steamship from Evanston, IL, always bringing their bikes to enjoy trail riding in a vacation environment far safer than street biking in their Chicago suburb. Their story resonates today as *Friends Of The Blue Star Trail* President Jeanne Van Zoeren is the granddaughter of one of the Richardson family girls, Ethel, who first met Jeanne's grandfather in Saugatuck's Big Pavilion in 1911.

Sullivan is a globally recognized researcher, speaker, writer and business consultant. Over his 33-year corporate career he served in various executive management roles for Quaker Oats Company and Information Resources, Inc. in Chicago, and Alliance Data in Columbus, Ohio. Jim holds a BA in History from Notre Dame and an MBA from Virginia, recently published his first two books bringing career direction and life leadership insights to the millennial generation. He and wife Lauri became residents of Saugatuck Township in 2013.

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 S-DHS members Nancy and Bill Woods.

Friends of the Blue Star Trail is an all-volunteer organization located in Casco Township. Its purpose is to assist area governmental units, the county parks department and the county road commission in the development of the Trail. The group works to secure funding for local match money required to qualify for government grants needed to fund the project. To learn more, visit www.fotbst.org.

For more information about the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society, its Museum and Old School House History Center, or its activities planned for 2015, visit www.sdhistoricalsociety.org.

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Evanston family's biking vacations here in the 1890s start the story of the Blue Star Trail at this summer's first Historical Society Tuesday Talk. (Girl third from left grew up to become grandmother of *Friends Of The Blue Star Trail* President Jeanne Van Zoeren)