Dossin Great Lakes Museum Re-Opens with a Grand Weekend

Duplicating the success of November’s events opening the Detroit Historical Museum, metro Detroiters came out in substantial numbers during the celebration of the Grand Re-Opening of the Dossin Great Lakes Museum on Belle Isle. Several thousand people visited during the Gala, Member Preview, Community Leaders Breakfast and the public opening weekend. Positive comments abounded regarding the $2 million renovation, from enthusiastic media reports to “thumbs up” responses from visitors.

The Gala kicked matters off with U.S. Senator Carl Levin and Detroit Mayor Dave Bing on hand for the ribbon cutting, dinner in a spectacular tent adjoining the museum and music and dancing in the Aaron DeRoy Hall. Detroit Historical Society members received their preview the next morning, enjoying the new exhibits along with breakfast and the music of Great Lakes balladeer Lee Murdock.
I’m pleased to report that we’ve completed another successful Grand Re-Opening, and the Dossin Great Lakes Museum is now open every weekend. The response has been very positive with visitors of all ages finding the new and refreshed exhibits as well as all the hands-on interactive features engaging and informative. Join us soon with your family and friends on Belle Isle. As at the Detroit Historical Museum, we are pleased to offer free admission for our members and the public, though donations are always welcome. Also, be sure to shop the expanded museum store!

The momentum also continues at the Detroit Historical Museum, where, in just over six months, we’ve already surpassed attendance figures we previously would see over an entire year. Our Past>Forward Campaign is completing year four at nearly 90 percent of the way to our $20.1 million goal. If you have not yet made a gift to our campaign, I invite you to be part of this transformative effort!

As you page through this issue of Making History, you’ll note our newest event concept coming July 21 — the Storytellers Festival; details are on the facing page. The next exhibit in our Community Gallery at the Detroit Historical Museum also promises to be an exciting one, featuring a number of our city’s most famous ambassadors from the worlds of sports, entertainment and business. See what it’s all about and how you can participate on page 5. In a profile on page 14, you’ll also meet some members of the Dossin family, who remain fundamentally involved and continue to financially support the museum on Belle Isle that bears their name.

Let me again express my appreciation for everyone who has contributed their time, talent and resources to transform both of our amazing museums — especially to our board, staff and volunteers and to all of you who have supported our Past-Forward Campaign. Together, we made all of this possible and have helped ensure a strong foundation moving forward.

Enjoy the summer, and I look forward to seeing you at both of our great new museums someday soon!

Sincerely,

Robert A. Bury
Executive Director & CEO
Detroit Historical Society
Join us for our inaugural Storytellers Festival July 21st

The metro Detroit area is wonderfully diverse and full of unique stories. Whether you are curious about the cultural history of our great city or interested in the art of storytelling, we invite you to join us for our new summer program, the Storytellers Festival, on Sunday, July 21 from noon – 4 p.m.

During the Storytellers Festival, several community organizations that represent Detroit’s ethnic communities will share their heritage through storytelling and traditional song and dance. Each organization will also host a booth space at which they will trace their history in the Detroit area, presenting information about when the first of their group arrived here, why they undertook the journey, where they lived, and what kind of work they found.

You will be able to explore creative ways to share your own stories by making a bookmark or story picture or by attending a workshop on how to craft a great story. This free program is ideal for families looking for a fun way to explore just what created the multiple layers of stories that keep proving how remarkable Detroit is!

Tiger Great Willie Horton joins Legends Plaza

Willie Horton, known during his playing days as “Willie the Wonder,” became the latest giant of the Detroit sports world to be immortalized in the Detroit Historical Museum’s Legends Plaza in April, when he placed his hands and signature in cement during a brief ceremony in the Streets of Old Detroit.

When Horton’s handcasting is installed in Legends Plaza this fall, he will join sports greats like his former teammate Al Kaline, Mayor Dave Bing and Joe Dumars of the Pistons, Gordie Howe and

Ted Lindsay of the Red Wings, Barry Sanders of the Lions and boxing champion Thomas “The Hit Man” Hearns. A total of 24 Detroit luminaries of arts, music, film, media and sports are currently honored in the Plaza, a popular outdoor attraction located in front of the Detroit Historical Museum since the fall of 2012.

Horton, whose number 23 was retired by the Tigers in 2000, hit 325 home runs over an 18-year major league baseball career. Drafted by his hometown Tigers out of Northwestern High School, he was a member of the 1968 World Series Champions and threw out Cardinals speedster Lou Brock at home in Game 5 — a pivotal play that helped the Tigers overcome a three games to one deficit and win the Fall Classic in seven games. Horton still works for the Tigers as an advisor to team president Dave Dombrowski.

Society to benefit from annual Ilitch Charities golf event

The Detroit Historical Society has been named as one of two beneficiaries for the sixth annual Ilitch Charities Celebrity Golf Classic, which tees off on Monday, August 26 at historic Oakland Hills Country Club in Bloomfield Hills.

Ilitch Charities is a non-profit organization that invests in our community’s future by supporting innovative, collaborative and measurable programs in the areas of community development, human services, education and recreation.

For more information on how you or your company can participate in this event as a sponsor, contact www.ilitchCharities.org or call (313) 471-6561.
As stewards of our city and region’s rich history, the Detroit Historical Society cares for and preserves more than 250,000 objects, documents and images. Long after memories fade and perspectives change, these artifacts will remain to document the past and contribute to a broader understanding of the individuals, places and events that helped shape metro Detroit.

The Detroit Historical Society relies on the generosity of donors to enhance its collection. The *New to the Collection* showcase features a small selection of the hundreds of donations the Society receives each year.

**Riding the Rails: How Rail Transportation Helped Build Detroit**

Through the 19th and early 20th centuries, vehicles that operated on steel rails were instrumental in Detroit’s development from frontier outpost to bustling metropolis. At the turn of the 20th century, Detroit had the largest regional mass transportation network in the United States with its railroad, trolley and interurban system. For over a century, rail transportation was part of the fabric of Detroiters’ lives — how they got to work, how they spent Sundays, how they got their food, and even how they were buried.

However, as transportation methods changed in the 20th century, the popularity of rail transportation decreased. The automobile became the vehicle of choice for the freedom it gave to individuals, and Henry Ford’s Model T made it possible for Americans of all backgrounds and socioeconomic statuses to own an automobile.

The Detroit Historical Society’s exhibition, *Riding the Rails: How Rail Transportation Helped Build Detroit*, presents the history of rail transportation around the city, providing fascinating and enlightening context to a modern discussion on the best way to lessen our dependence on the automobile and provide safe and reliable mass transportation for citizens.

**New To the Collection**

Now Open in the Allesee Gallery of Culture

**Center Stage: Days That Defined Detroit**

History is often defined by pivotal moments, turning points that mark an instant in time when things were never the same again. As great moments or simmering conflicts gain momentum, it is often a single event that tips the balance and redefines an era. This exhibit explores six Detroit events that changed the course of 20th century history in the city. Their impacts often reverberated through the nation and world.

- **AUGUST 12, 1908** — Ford Motor Company Debuts the Model T
- **MARCH 26, 1937** — The UAW and Ford Motor Company’s “Battle of the Overpass”
- **MARCH 22, 1954** — Northland Center, the World’s Largest Shopping Mall, Opens
- **APRIL 14, 1960** — Berry Gordy, Jr. Launches Motown Records
- **JULY 23, 1967** — The Worst Civil Disturbance in Detroit History Begins
- **NOVEMBER 6, 1973** — Coleman A. Young Becomes Detroit’s First African American Mayor

*Supported by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts.*
Closes June 16 in the Community Gallery

A Cultural Thread....The Enduring Ukrainian Spirit

This exhibition from the Ukrainian American Archives and Museum brings to life the history of Ukrainian immigration to the United States and its impact on American culture over the years, in particular to the communities of metropolitan Detroit.

The exhibition features traditional art that Ukrainian immigrants brought to America, including regional styles of costumes, sculptures, paintings, over 1,000 Ukrainian Easter eggs ( pysanky), ritual cloths which were used during life passages, pottery, woodcarvings as well as large scanned historical photographs of Ukrainian settlers and famous persons of Ukrainian descent.

Open July 13 – September 29 in the Community Gallery

Heart Soul Detroit

Detroit. The Motor City. Motown. By any name, the city ’on the strait’ that Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac founded in 1701 has arisen to become one of the most influential, volatile, intriguing and inspiring locales on the planet. From the rise of the auto industry to the phenomenal success of Motown Records to the Grande Ballroom scene that fostered some of the most influential musicians in the history of rock ’n’ roll, it can’t be denied: An uncommon number of amazing people have called Detroit home.

This exhibit serves as the companion to the recent book Heart Soul Detroit: Conversations on the Motor City, featuring photographs by Jenny Risher, raw interview footage and memorabilia. ‘Heart Soul Detroit’ presents 50 influential, successful, fascinating and beloved Detroiters. From super-athletes like Nicklas Lidström, Barry Sanders, Al Kaline and Tommy Hearns, and writers such as Elmore Leonard, Mitch Albom and John Sinclair, to internationally admired musicians like Smokey Robinson, Jack White, Eminem and Martha Reeves and business visionaries such as Berry Gordy, Lee Iacocca and Bill Ford Jr., ‘Heart Soul Detroit’ showcases the men and women who helped put The Motor City on the map.

A portion of proceeds from sales of the book benefit Focus: HOPE.

Heart Soul Detroit
Community Gallery exhibition
Opening Event

Friday, July 12 • 6 – 10 p.m.

Doors and Bar: 6 p.m. | Ribbon Cutting: 7 p.m.
Food and Fun: 7–10 p.m.

$35 Advance ticket
general admission

$75 Advance ticket
includes copy of Heart Soul Detroit book

$40 Day of event ticket
general admission
(a limited number of tickets will be sold at the door)

Advance ticket deadline: Monday, July 8, 2013
Purchase tickets online at www.detroithistorical.org or call (313) 833-1980.


Visit www.detroithistorical.org for additional details.

Visit our new permanent exhibits:
JULY 6 • NO TOUR — INDEPENDENCE DAY OBSERVANCE

Detroit Lions Training Facility
JULY 13 • 10 A.M. – NOON
$25 members/$35 guests
Come see where the Detroit Lions practice in the Lions Training Facility, built in 2002 by the Ford family. The 460,000 square foot complex features an indoor practice field, an athletic training and rehab facility, a massive locker room, a hydrotherapy room, a spacious equipment room, a cafeteria, meeting rooms for each position, a player lounge, a 103-person auditorium for full team meetings and large press conferences, and a broadcast studio. Two outdoor fields ensure the Lions have plenty of room to practice. This tour will show you how the Ford family brought pride to Detroit with the training facility that is like no other in professional football.

Old Wayne County Building
JULY 19 • 10 A.M. – NOON
$20 members/$30 guests
Special Friday tour!

The Old Wayne County building was once the home of the Wayne County Hall of Justice, the Detroit Traffic Court, and the Wayne County Friend of the Court. The elaborate building was completed in 1902 and features 18 courtrooms, stunning architecture, and striking sculptures. The interior of the building is rich with architecture, and striking sculptures. Numerous fireplaces in the house, made of such fine materials as onyx and Nubian marble. Elegant, elaborate wood carvings can be seen throughout the house, often reflecting the room they are in; for example, the dining room has wooden carvings of food. From 1928–1947, the home was a boarding house before it was purchased by Hecker. The nearly 21,000 square foot home has 49 rooms on three floors. There are numerous fireplaces in the house, made of such fine materials as onyx and Nubian marble. Elegant, elaborate wood carvings can be seen throughout the house, often reflecting the room they are in; for example, the dining room has wooden carvings of food. From 1928–1947, the home was a boarding house before it was purchased by Paul Smiley as the headquarters for Smiley Music Company. The Mansion is now owned by Charfoos & Christensen, P.C., who restored the mansion in the 1990s. This tour will provide you with a look at the stunning architecture and craftsmanship of this grand mansion.

WXYZ Channel 7 Studios
JULY 25 • 11:30 A.M. – 1 P.M.
$20 members/$30 guests
Special Thursday tour!
Since 1948, WXYZ has been bringing breaking news to Detroit. They have been known for their innovative programming, including Lunch with Soupy, which launched the career of comedian Soupy Sales, and Kelly and Company, a precursor to talk shows like Regis and Kelly. This tour will give you a history of the studio and a firsthand look at how the news is broadcasted by this award-winning news station.

Wayne State University
Mortuary Science
JULY 26 • 2 – 4 P.M.
$20 members/$30 guests
Special Friday tour!
A much-requested tour, this is your opportunity to learn about the Mortuary Science building and program at Wayne State University. Step inside the state-of-the-art facility and see where students learn the background and knowledge of the funeral service profession, experience every phase of funeral service needed to be successful as a funeral director, and receive knowledge of the responsibilities of the funeral service profession to the community at large. You will also see the museum with artifacts related to the school and profession. Due to the sensitive nature of this profession, photography will be restricted to certain approved areas during the tour.

Hecker-Smiley Mansion
AUGUST 3 • 10 A.M. – NOON
$20 members/$30 guests
Come explore this French Chateau-style mansion built in 1892 for Colonel Frank Hecker. The nearly 21,000 square foot home has 49 rooms on three floors. There are numerous fireplaces in the house, made of such fine materials as onyx and Nubian marble. Elegant, elaborate wood carvings can be seen throughout the house, often reflecting the room they are in; for example, the dining room has wooden carvings of food. From 1928–1947, the home was a boarding house before it was purchased by Paul Smiley as the headquarters for Smiley Music Company. The Mansion is now owned by Charfoos & Christensen, P.C., who restored the mansion in the 1990s. This tour will provide you with a look at the stunning architecture and craftsmanship of this grand mansion.

Woodlawn Cemetery
AUGUST 24 • 3 – 5 P.M.
$20 members/$30 guests
Woodlawn Cemetery has been called the “Silent City within a City,” earning its name from the abundance of memorial architecture and mausoleums (over 130) it contains. These mausoleums represent elegant styles of architecture, including Greek, Roman, and Egyptian Revival, as well as Art Deco and Art Nouveau. The list of famous Detrioters interred in these tombs is long and includes...
behind the scenes tours

summer 2013

$20 detroit historical society members • $30 guests (unless otherwise noted)

advance reservations required. tour registrants receive directions to the tour location, a map and additional information 1–2 weeks after payment is received. tours typically last 90 minutes to two hours. no refunds or tour credits will be given. you may choose from three options to sign-up:

1. fill out and send the form on page 18
2. register online at www.detroithistorical.org
3. call (313) 833-1801 to register by phone

the dodge family, the james couzens family, and the s.s. kresge family. join us on this tour to experience the beautiful architecture of the mausoleums as we walk through the peaceful park setting of woodlawn.

august 31 • no tour — labor day observance

bayview yacht club
september 7 • 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
$30 members/$40 guests
includes lunch!

the bayview yacht club was founded in 1915 by a handful of people with just one boat. since its creation nearly 100 years ago, the club has grown to boast over 1,000 members and is located inside a 5,000 square foot clubhouse, built in 1930. join us as we tour the clubhouse and learn about the history of this “shrine of nautical culture.”

historic fort wayne
september 14 • 10 a.m. – noon
$20 members/$30 guests
extensive tour with bonus civil war days celebration at the fort!

fort wayne was built in 1845 in response to the looming threat of invasion from british-occupied canada. the fort served as an army base for 125 years, but never fired a single shot toward an enemy. visitors to the fort today have the opportunity to see the original 1848 barracks, the star fort, the commanding officers house, and the tuskegee airman museum. while public tours are sometimes offered during special events, as part of this exclusive detroit historical society tour, you will have the chance to see more of the buildings on the grounds as well as the indian treaty document signed at the site in 1815.

michigan military technical & historical society
september 21 • 10 a.m. – noon
$20 members/$30 guests

the michigan military technical & historical society is dedicated to portraying and preserving the story of the role that michigan’s civilian and military personnel played in conflicts in the twentieth century. the museum places a large focus on michigan’s role as the “arsenal of democracy.” this tour will provide you an opportunity to learn from one of the founders about how and why the museum was formed as well as its archives and plans for the future.

woodmere cemetery walking tours
september 28 • 10 a.m. – noon
$20 members/$30 guests

woodmere is one of the most historic cemeteries in the detroit area. since its founding in 1867 by a group of prominent detroit businessmen, woodmere cemetery has remained one of detroit’s “most beautiful treasures,” according to author gail hershenzon. accessible through an historic main entrance on west fort street, woodmere features 240 acres with gently rolling hills and mature trees and a pond that is fed by a “baby creek” that runs underground. the cemetery has three garden mausoleums in addition to a chapel mausoleum. notables such as scripps, bacon, finney and many more are interred here.

historical houses of worship tours

since 1972, the historical houses of worship tours have acquainted metro detroiters with the contributions religious institutions have made in the development of our community. these tours are sponsored by the detroit historical society.

the cost is $40 for detroit historical society members and $50 for guests.

your tour fee includes transportation with docent commentary, historical presentations at each tour stop, lunch and donations back to each location. tours now feature comfortable motor coaches, providing you with a relaxing view of our architecturally unique city!

all tours run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and depart from and return to the detroit historical museum (unless otherwise noted).

note: due to the popularity of these tours, it is recommended that you make reservations well in advance. no group or individual reservations will be held without payment in full.

september 9, 2013
includes lunch in mexicantown!

- catholic church of the madonna
- new mount zion missionary baptist church (former beth david synagogue)
- st. gabriel
- st. francis d’assisi

october 7, 2013

- salvation army royal oak
- temple beth el
- st. hugh of the hills stone chapel
- christ church cranbrook

supported by the michigan council for arts and cultural affairs and the national endowment for the arts.

sponsored by
Summer Film Series
Films screened at 1 p.m. each day. Free with museum admission.

During the summer, the Detroit Historical Society screens your favorite films from throughout the previous year. Films start at 1 p.m. so that you have time to explore the city on a Behind the Scenes tour before coming to the museum for a screening.

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**The Rouge**
July 13 & 14
August 10 & 11
August 31 & September 1
Running Time: 46 minutes

From its first years as a model of integration for its time to Ford’s using cruel force to crush organized labor, the Rouge indelibly shaped the history of Detroit and the world. Early footage, photographs, and interviews share this intriguing story.

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**Borderline**
July 27 & 28
August 17 & 18
September 14 & 15
Running Time: 30 minutes
1997 Emmy Winner

Includes a visit with the producer, Gary Glaser! He will provide an introduction to the film and be available for questions following each screening.

This program captures the spirit and eccentricity of metro Detroit’s most provocative thoroughfare. No other road in Michigan evokes a response like the one you get when you mention 8 Mile. From topless dancers and the neighborhood groups that battle them, to storefront preachers and the homeless people they minister, 8 Mile remains our area’s most notorious boundary.

Thoughtful commentary from Jerry Herron, Director of American Studies, and Ronald Stephens; associate Professor of Communication (both from Wayne State University) provide context and analysis. The documentary also features an interview with Mr. Belvedere (his office is on 8 Mile) as well as clips from some of his classic commercials. Part history, part pop culture, this film — like a ride down 8 Mile — is both thought-provoking and entertaining.

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**The Story of Willow Run**
August 3 & 4
August 24 & 25
September 21 & 22
Running Time: 35 minutes

The idea for the Willow Run B-24 Bomber Plant was conceived by Henry Ford, who told the United States Government that he could support the aircraft production needs for the coming World War by building B-24s on a production line the same way Ford Motor Company built automobiles at the Rouge Plant. By the end of production, the sprawling Willow Run plant was rolling out one B-24 every 55 minutes, 24 hours a day. This is the story of that accomplishment as filmed by the Ford Motor Company in this original, 1945 black and white documentary.

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Black Historic Sites Committee to celebrate its 42nd Anniversary Friday, July 26

Celebrate the 42nd anniversary of the Detroit Historical Society’s Black Historic Sites Committee! Enjoy a beautiful summer evening at the renovated Dossin Great Lakes Museum on Belle Isle starting with a strolling dinner and cocktails at 5:30 p.m. followed by a program saluting several notable honorees who were the first African Americans in their field. Those being recognized include Melvin Jefferson, Detroit’s first black Fire Commissioner; the late Robert L. Millender and Carole Gist, the first African American to win the Miss USA pageant.

Tickets are $30 for Detroit Historical Society/Black Historic Sites Committee members and $40 for guests and can be purchased by calling (313) 833-1262 or online at www.detroithistorical.org.

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Save the Date
For these Fall Events

**Fall Historic Fort Wayne Flea Market**
Saturday and Sunday, October 12–13

Presented by the Detroit Historical Society Guild and Historic Fort Wayne Coalition

For vendor table information, call (313) 882-6107.

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**A Victorian Tea**
Saturday, November 9

Presented by the Detroit Historical Society Guild

Look for details in the Fall issue of Making History!
War of 1812 in the Old Northwest
September 28 & 29
Running Time: 55 minutes

Did you know that Detroit was once held by the British? During the War of 1812, the British took control of Fort Detroit for over a year! To commemorate the date the U.S. recaptured Fort Detroit 200 years ago, join us for a screening of War of 1812 in the Old Northwest, produced by WGTE-TV Toledo’s Darren LaShelle.

War of 1812 in the Old Northwest brings to life some of the most famous names and places of the war, each closely linked to our region: Tecumseh, William Henry Harrison, Oliver Hazard Perry, Fort Meigs, River Raisin and the Battle of Lake Erie.

In addition to contemporary HD footage of the locations that played a prominent role in the War, the film is richlyillustrated with archival photos, paintings and newly-created maps.

Douglas Brinkley, David Skaggs and Randall Buchman are among the noted historians and authors featured in the program, along with Eric Hemenway, who works in the Cultural Preservation Department for the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians in Northern Michigan.

Support for War of 1812 in the Old Northwest is provided by a grant from the Ohio Humanities Council, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and by Buckeye CableSystem.

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Flag Raising Commemorates War of 1812 Victory

Having surrendered to the British on August 16, 1812, Detroit remained under foreign control until after the Battle of Lake Erie on September 10, 1813. Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry and General William Henry Harrison sent both naval and army forces to regain control of Detroit. On September 29, 1813, the Navy restored American control and the “Star-Spangled Banner” waved once again over the city on the straits. The Army arrived the following day.

On Sunday, September 29, we will gather at 2 p.m. on Legends Plaza to celebrate the United States flag returning to Detroit with a brief program featuring regional War of 1812 groups.

Detroit and Windsor: A Bootlegging Tour returns September 25

If you haven’t yet experienced this tour, don’t miss out!!

Enterprising Detroiters made our city a hub of activity in the years of Prohibition. This unique tour will give you a chance to explore the history and see first-hand some of the bootleggers’ favored locations along the Detroit River. We will enjoy dinner on board the Diamond Belle as guides share their knowledge of the infamous activity that shaped our city in the 1920s and 1930s.

The tour, brought to you by Preservation Detroit and the Detroit Historical Society, will depart on Wednesday, September 25 at 6:00 p.m. and return by 8:00 p.m. Check-in for the tour begins at 5:30 p.m. that evening. Tickets are $55 for Detroit Historical Society and Preservation Detroit members and $60 for guests. Passengers will enjoy a narrated tour and dinner on board the Diamond Belle on the Detroit River. Advance registration is required, and no tickets will be sold after Friday, September 20. Please visit www.detroithistorical.org or call (313) 833-1801 for tickets or additional information.
Detroit’s growth and development into one of the nation’s leading metropolitan regions is undeniably linked to the river that shares its name. The Dossin Great Lakes Museum’s new core exhibition — *Built by the River* — highlights the ways in which Detroiter have long used the river and lakes around us to build our industries, engage our neighbors and pursue our recreational passions.

As the “City on the Straits,” the river’s impact on the social, economic and ecological development of metropolitan Detroit is indeed undeniable. Early history examines Detroit’s place at the center of the fur trade, and how its geographic placement made it a strategic spot for the French, British and American armed forces. Later, its location on the river made Detroit a center of industrial development, manufacturing capital and marine transportation. For decades, the Detroit River was the busiest commercial waterway in the world, and Detroit shipyards built more vessels than any other city in the region.

Today, the river, as a link to the Great Lakes, is an important part of the region’s economy and identity. From a recreational standpoint, Belle Isle is home to the oldest rowing club — the Detroit Boat Club — in the country. A century ago, a relaxing cruise along the river and lakes was as common as a Sunday drive. Today, powerboat racers annually vie for the Gold Cup — motor sports’ oldest trophy — and fishing in the region is considered superb.

Our region’s almost century-long relationship with Bob-lo Island amusement park is also chronicled in the exhibit. The universally-loved attraction and the two steamers that brought guests to the park — the *Columbia* and the *Ste. Claire* — created an experience remembered fondly more than 20 years after Bob-lo closed to the public. A special section of the exhibit remembers Bob-lo and features an interactive comment board where guests can share favorite memories.

Our heritage is also intertwined with our friends in Canada, as Detroit’s status as an important international border crossing has helped shape its destiny. From enslaved people escaping to Canada on the Underground Railroad to bootleggers thwarting Prohibition-era regulations against importing alcohol, the Detroit River has been home to countless stories of triumph and tragedy.

These stories are showcased in ways that are both educational as well as interactive. This exhibition, which is aligned with Michigan science and social studies curriculum standards, informs visitors and students alike about the social, industrial and ecological history of Detroit and the region. It also inspires them to look at our environment in a new way.

This exhibition traces hundreds of years of Great Lakes maritime history, with an emphasis on the development of southeastern Michigan.

Key exhibition aspects include:

- Hands-on interactive exhibition elements that engage younger visitors;
- A large display simulating a speedboat racing down the Detroit River, giving visitors a chance to experience the thrill of racing;
- An 18th century re-creation of a canoe, enabling visitors to climb in and experience what early settlers felt upon arriving in the region.
A River’s Roar
May 18, 2013 – April 2014
Now open in the Dossin Great Lakes Museum’s Great Lakes Gallery

This exhibition provides an exciting overview of the history of hydroplane racing in Detroit. For more than 100 years, the Detroit River and Belle Isle have featured some of the finest racing in the country. The course has hosted the “superbowl” of power boat racing — the Gold Cup — more times than any other venue. The Gold Cup is the oldest trophy in motorsports. It was also a longrunning home track for the British Harmsworth Trophy.

This exhibit brings the roar of the river back to the museum. Visitors will see some of their favorite boats, and revisit the legendary days of Gar Wood, Guy Lombardo, Wild Bill Cantrell, Fred Alter, Bill Muncey and Chip Hanauer. Everyone can learn about these sleek and fun speed boats with names like Tempo, Skipalong, Such Crust, and Miss Vernors. With such wonderful history and exciting artifacts, A River’s Roar is sure to please racing fans of all stripes.

Also, enjoy our other refreshed Dossin attractions:

A modern hydroplane races past the Detroit Yacht Club (top); Ernie Dossin accepts the Gold Cup trophy on behalf of the Miss Pepsi team (above).
**Summer Days of Detroit**

**JUNE 17, 1875** — Frederick Sanders opened his confectionery and ice cream store at 166 Woodward in Detroit.

**JUNE 23, 1963** — Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. presented his “I Have a Dream” speech for the first time at Cobo Hall.

**JUNE 30, 1934** — The Portsmouth (Ohio) Spartans National Football League franchise moved north and became the Detroit Lions.

**JULY 11, 1796** — The United States flag was first raised over Detroit.

**JULY 25, 1932** — Diego Rivera started work on frescoes at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

**AUGUST 1, 1928** — The Detroit Zoological Park opened to the public in Royal Oak.

**AUGUST 14, 2003** — The largest blackout in North American history hits metro Detroit.

**SEPTEMBER 10, 1942** — The first of 8,685 B-24 bombers was produced at the Willow Run plant.

**SEPTEMBER 17, 1891** — The J.L. Hudson Company opened its new eight-story building at Gratiot and Farmer streets.

The float saluting metro Detroit’s Polish community rolls down Woodward Avenue during the parade celebrating the city’s 250th birthday in July 1951.
Two great artifacts. Four great stories.

From a curatorial standpoint, the best artifacts are accompanied by powerful stories: stories of the Detroiters who made or used an item; stories that lend insight into how those folks lived in an earlier Detroit, and what they considered important to their lives or legacies. Occasionally, history conspired to give an artifact more than one great story. Two such items were recently placed on display at the newly renovated Dossin Great Lakes Museum.

The first is the result of a rescue and conservation project started many years ago. In the 1950s, a large painting was salvaged from the passenger steamer *Greater Detroit* before it was scrapped. Flagship of the Detroit & Cleveland Navigation Company, the *Greater Detroit* was a big sister to the *City of Detroit III*, original home to the Dossin Museum’s Gothic Room in Polk Family Hall. Because of the D&C Line’s important role in Detroit’s maritime history and our extensive collection of D&C material, the painting was donated to the collection in 1981 by Mrs. C.A. Dillon, W.A. Dillon and B.C. Pollard. After extensive conservation several years ago, the painting was ready to be displayed.

Now the visual centerpiece of DeRoy Hall, it enhances our tale of the elegant steamers sailing from Detroit. But making this painting doubly valuable...the image depicts the Battle of Lake Erie, which took place on September 10, 1813. This year marks the 200th anniversary of that action during the War of 1812, and this illustration brings to life the cannon sitting in front of the museum, both veterans of that battle.

The second artifact — much smaller — was re-discovered during Dossin Museum renovations. The donor was President Dwight D. Eisenhower. The item is a desk set that includes the two pens used by the president to sign the St. Lawrence Seaway Act in 1954. This legislation, under guidance from Michigan Senator Homer Ferguson and Congressman George Dondero, provided funds to complete the Seaway and open Great Lakes shipping to the world.

This piece would be a valuable addition to any Great Lakes museum’s collection. What makes it special to Detroit, and doubles its historical value, is that the pens and pen holder were made with pieces of the log stockade surrounding Fort Detroit. As the first line of defense for the town for a century, this piece of timber is a physical reminder of our military and frontier heritage, even as it was used to make Detroit a world-class port.
The Dossin Family celebrates its history, as well as their namesake Museum

Grandson to Belgian immigrants, Ernest J. Dossin first began what would become his family’s legacy selling horseradish out of a horse-drawn carriage in 1898. He soon began Dossin’s Food Products, carrying a variety of food and sundry items. Carbonated beverages later followed, having also procured the bottling and distribution rights for Blatz and Cadillac beers, and Nehi, NuGrape, Set Up and Par-T-Pak sodas. The 1930s purchase of one of the largest franchises of the Pepsi-Cola system, covering distribution for all of Michigan and northern Ohio, solidified the success of Dossin’s Food Products and the Dossin family.

By the 1940s, Dossin’s sons, Russell, Walter and Roy, were in charge of the business and interested in hydroplane racing. Over the course of nine seasons, between 1947 and 1956, the Dossins competed with four boats: Pepsi Cola III, Miss Pepsi-V, Miss Pepsi 1948 and Miss Pepsi 1950. The year 1947 proved to be one of the most successful seasons in history for Miss Pepsi-V. In six years, the Dossins had the most wins for an Unlimited Hydroplane series team at that time, with three National Championships and 11 major race wins. The 1950 Miss Pepsi was the fastest step hydroplane of all time with her groundbreaking use of twin Allison aircraft engines, reaching speeds of over 100 mph and earning more national wins than any other team.

In 1956, the Dossins donated $125,000 toward the construction of a new maritime museum on Belle Isle that would become the Dossin Great Lakes Museum. Miss Pepsi was put on permanent display as a signature exhibit at the Museum in 1963. After a five-month, $2 million renovation of the Dossin Great Lakes Museum, Miss Pepsi will now enjoy “new HVAC to control the temperature and humidity and renewed UV protection on her windows,” said Detroit Historical Society trustee Doug Dossin, grandson of Russell Dossin. The exhibit will also feature “more of a story with more information that is less static,” he continued.

The 2013 renovation of the Dossin Great Lakes Museum is far more transformative than the previous 2007 updates, with the brand new core exhibit, Built by the River.

“It’s much more extensive. It’s like comparing apples to persimmons. It’s a huge difference,” Doug Dossin said.

Doug looks forward to continuing to share the history of his family’s champion racing boat with the public, but “the U.S.S. Tambor periscope always was (a favorite exhibit) as a kid. The periscope was the precursor to the webcam.”

Richard “Dick” Dossin is the last of his generation, a son of Roy Dossin and Mary (Elizabeth Link) Dossin. He was born on October 26, 1926 at Providence Hospital in Detroit. He attended Detroit’s Hilger School and Barber Elementary in Highland Park before being voted the “best dressed” student in his Grosse Pointe High School (now Grosse Pointe South) graduating class of January 1945.

A month later, Richard was drafted into the Army and sent to Seoul, Korea, where he worked as office manager of the 404 Medium Maintenance Company.

In 1946, Richard returned to Detroit, and attended the Business Institute before going to work for the Dossin family business, working as many as eight different jobs. As a young man, he worked summers and weekends, mixing syrup and soda water in the bottles. He went on to become a salesman and delivery driver, and inevitably returned to the premix sector, where he remained throughout the 1950s. After witnessing the profits made by the Dossins, Pepsi Corporate bought the family out of the franchise in 1959. Richard went on to sell steam baths and develop two mobile home parks in Florida, “retiring” in the 1970s.

Richard married his first wife, Ellen, in 1951 and they had a daughter, Marlena, in 1953. In 1972, he married Elaine Dossin, and they have now been together for over 40 years, residing in Grosse Pointe Woods.

A senior member of the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, Richard is also a member of the Grosse Pointe Senior Men’s Club, an original member of the Wimbledon Men’s Club, an original member of the Wimbledon Men’s Club, and has been a member of St. James Lutheran Church for 50 years.

In addition, Dick is also a longtime supporter of the Thomas and Gloria Kitchen Foundation for cystic fibrosis.

Doug and the Dossins look to the future of their family legacy in the Dossin Great Lakes Museum and the ongoing revitalization of Detroit and Belle Isle with hope and anticipation.

“It certainly would be nice to see (the Dossin Great Lakes Museum) expand,” Doug said.

“The original plan was meant to be much larger. There are so many more artifacts for the public to see. Detroit is coming back, and as Detroit gets better and garners more awareness, I’m sure that the Dossin Great Lakes Museum and Detroit Historical Museum will too.”
Summer Specials at the Museum Stores

With the renovations complete at both the Dossin Great Lakes Museum and the Detroit Historical Museum, the Detroit Historical Society looks forward to a successful, fun summer! Both Museum Stores, as well as the online store at www.detroithistorical.org, will feature monthly specials on merchandise, featuring new items and celebrating Detroit events and history throughout the season.

Detroit Historical Museum Store

**June:** Usher in summer with a kickoff event, featuring 20% off Made in Detroit Eminem, Bob Seger and Kid Rock t-shirts, 20% off all Carhartt apparel, 20% off Constance Powell prints and 10% off all books! This offer will only be valid for in-store purchases.

**July:** Continue to celebrate the summer season at the Detroit Historical Museum with the summer kickoff event, featuring 20% off Made in Detroit Eminem, Bob Seger and Kid Rock t-shirts, 20% off all Carhartt apparel, 20% off Constance Powell prints and 10% off all books! You will have to see it to believe it!

**August:** Get ready for back-to-school with 20% off all children’s books!

**September:** In honor of Labor Day, celebrate everyone who helped build the Motor City with 20% off titles about working and industry in Detroit!

Dossin Great Lakes Museum Store

**June:** Usher in summer with 10% off all books! This offer will only be valid for in-store purchases.

**July:** Get ready for the APBA Gold Cup with 20% off all maritime books featured at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum!

**August:** Get ready for back-to-school in August with 20% off all children’s books!

**September:** Familiarize yourself with the freighters you see on the Detroit River and Great Lakes with 20% off of *Know Your Ships.*
Don’t Just Make Plans — Make History!

Choose the Dossin Great Lakes Museum or the Detroit Historical Museum to host any of your special event needs:

Weddings • Birthdays • Receptions • Meetings • Holiday Parties • And more!

Call (313) 833-1733 to discuss your event needs with our professional staff.
www.detroithistorical.org
The Detroit Historical Society’s newly published book, *Border Crossings: The Detroit River Region in the War of 1812*, is now available for purchase!

Edited by Denver Brunsman, Assistant Professor of History at The George Washington University; Joel Stone, Detroit Historical Society Senior Curator; and Douglas Fisher, Managing Editor with Crain Communications, Inc., this book explores interactions among the diverse inhabitants on the American and Canadian sides of the Detroit River who were bitterly divided by the War of 1812.

The result of a year-long community history partnership between the Detroit Historical Society and Wayne State University, *Border Crossings* uncovers the personal and group interactions often ignored in standard histories of the War of 1812. For more than a generation, American citizens, British subjects, French settlers, Native Americans, and African slaves and freed-men routinely crossed the border formed by the Detroit River while living and working together in one of the most diverse regions in North America. That tranquility ended suddenly with the War of 1812. Cross-river neighbors transformed into enemies as the previously ignored border became fraught with new political significance.

Buy your copy today! Simply use the order form on this page, or call us at (313) 833-1262 to order by phone. You can also order online at our website at www.detroithistorical.org.

Join us for two special book signings with our own Joel Stone:

- **Saturday, September 7 from 12 – 2 p.m. at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum** – Celebrate the 200th anniversary of the American victory in the Battle of Lake Erie on September 10, 1813.
- **Saturday, September 28 from 12 – 2 p.m. at the Detroit Historical Museum** – Celebrate the 200th anniversary of when the British left Detroit for the last time on September 29, 1813.

**NEW RELEASE! ORDER YOURS TODAY!**

- **Saturday, September 7 from 12 – 2 p.m. at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum** – Celebrate the 200th anniversary of the American victory in the Battle of Lake Erie on September 10, 1813.
- **Saturday, September 28 from 12 – 2 p.m. at the Detroit Historical Museum** – Celebrate the 200th anniversary of when the British left Detroit for the last time on September 29, 1813.

**ORDER YOUR BORDER CROSSINGS BOOK TODAY**

**YES, I WANT TO ORDER ________________________**

*Border Crossings* book(s).

I’ve included payment based on the following:

**PRICE PER BOOK**

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- Shipping, handling and sales tax $4.00 each ______
- **TOTAL** ______

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5401 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48202

**PLEASE MAIL TO:**

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- **Address**
- **City, State & Zip**
- **Phone**
- **E-mail**

Make checks payable to: Detroit Historical Society (enclosed)
If paying by: [ ] VISA [ ] MasterCard [ ] American Express

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- **Signature**
- **Date**
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MAIL TO: Attn: Tours, Detroit Historical Society, 5401 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI, 48202

Behind the Scenes Tours

$20 DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS • $30 GUESTS (UNLESS NOTED)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Guests</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat., July 13</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
<td>Detroit Lions Training Facility</td>
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<td>Fri., July 19</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
<td>Old Wayne County Building</td>
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<td>Thurs., July 25</td>
<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>WXYZ Channel 7 Studios</td>
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<td>2 p.m.</td>
<td>Wayne State University Mortuary Science</td>
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<td>Sat., August 3</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
<td>Hecker-Smiley Mansion</td>
<td>$20</td>
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<td>Sat., August 10</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
<td>J.W. Westcott Co.</td>
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<td>Sat., August 17</td>
<td>8 a.m.</td>
<td>Historic Jackson Prison Tour</td>
<td>$70</td>
<td>$80</td>
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<td>Sat., August 24</td>
<td>3 p.m.</td>
<td>Woodlawn Cemetery</td>
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<td>Sat., Sept. 7</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
<td>Bayview Yacht Club</td>
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<td>Historic Fort Wayne</td>
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<td>10 a.m.</td>
<td>Michigan Military Technical &amp; Historical Society</td>
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<td>Woodmere Cemetery Walking Tours</td>
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Historic Houses of Worship

$40 DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS • $50 GUESTS

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Black Historic Sites Committee Gala

$30 DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY/BLACK HISTORIC SITES COMMITTEE MEMBERS • $40 GUESTS

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War of 1812 Historic Sites Tour

$70 DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS • $80 GUESTS

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GRAND TOTAL $  

BECOME A FAN OF THE DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY ON FACEBOOK, FOLLOW US ON TWITTER OR SEE US ON YOUTUBE!

See our homepage at www.detroithistorical.org for all the details!
## Society Member Profile

Beginning with this issue, the Society will feature one of our members in each newsletter. Want to see yourself here next? Email Alanna Shahly at alannas@detroithistorical.org or call (313) 833-0158.

### MARJORY COHEN
Huntington Woods | Member since 2007

**Why did you join the Society?**
It was the tours, actually, that got me interested in the Society. When my husband and I travel we like to take walking tours. We’ve done tours in London, New York, San Francisco, many different places. And then I discovered that we could do these kind of tours right here at home!

**What is the best tour that you’ve attended?**
Oh wow. I can’t really pick one. Maybe the Midtown tour?

**What would you say to others thinking about joining?**
The tours are very interesting and engaging and a very nice way to spend a Saturday. You meet interesting people, and the leaders are always very knowledgeable. I once took a friend on a bus tour for her birthday—that was just a great gift! The tours are great whether you grew up here or not. If you are from the Detroit area, there is a nostalgia factor and you get to see many places you remember from when you were a kid. If you didn’t grow up here, then you get to learn about the community where you live.

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### The Detroit Historical Society’s new membership levels and benefits

#### Researcher
- Access to the Society’s online database of high-resolution digital images

**$25**

#### Collector
- Subscription to Making History quarterly newsletter
- Free parking when visiting the Detroit Historical Museum
- 10% discount at both Museum stores
- Reciprocal membership at over 200 historical museums across the country
- Discounted ticket for cardholding member to all Society programs and tours

**$45**

#### Ambassador
- Ability to purchase up to three (3) additional discounted tickets to all Society programs and tours

**$65**

#### Patron
- Free ticket for two (2) persons to one Behind the Scenes tour per membership year*
- One annual subscription to Michigan History Magazine

**$150**

#### Benefactor
- Complimentary one-year gift membership at the Ambassador level for one of your family, friend or business contacts

**$300**

#### Historian
- Reduced rates for museum facility rentals and group tours
- Private VIP guided tour of the Detroit Historical Museum or the Dossin Great Lakes Museum for you and up to five (5) guests

**$500**

#### Dossin Maritime Group
- In order to be a member of the Dossin Maritime Group, you must be a member of the Detroit Historical Society at the Collector Level or above.

**$20**

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### SELECT MEMBERSHIP LEVEL

- [ ] Researcher $25
- [ ] Collector $45
- [ ] Ambassador $65
- [ ] Patron $150
- [ ] Benefactor $300
- [ ] Historian $500
- [ ] Join the Dossin Maritime Group ($20 fee in addition to regular membership dues)

- [ ] Additional Donation $______
MISSION
To educate and inspire our community and visitors by preserving and portraying our region’s shared history through dynamic exhibits and experiences.

VISION
To create a shared sense of community and pride by celebrating the history and the unique culture of our region.

Dated Material
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED