

Cedar Lake Historical Association

VISIT THE *Lake of the Red Cedars* MUSEUM

LOCATED ON THE SHORES OF CEDAR LAKE

Escape to the Past

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Contact:

Julie Zasada

219-218-6703

clhamuseum@yahoo.com

Cedar Lake Historical Association Selected to Participate in National Museum Assessment Program

CEDAR LAKE, Indiana (August 8, 2016) – Cedar Lake Historical Association (CLHA) has been selected to participate in the Museum Assessment Program (MAP). Through guided self-study and on-site consultation with a museum professional, participation in MAP will empower Cedar Lake Historical Association to better serve the citizens of the Northwest Indiana Region by facilitating its meeting and exceeding of the highest professional standards of the museum field.

The program is funded by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and throughout its 30 years has been administered by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM). As part of the IMLS National Leadership program, MAP advances best practices and fosters improvement in museums. MAP is a self-motivated program; application to and participation in MAP is initiated by each local institution, and those accepted invest considerable human and institutional resources into the assessment.

CLHA is pleased to begin this process during its museum's 30th anniversary year. The museum is housed in the former Lassen Resort hotel. "A group of dedicated volunteers came together in 1977 to form an association to preserve the rich history of Cedar Lake. When they opened the doors to the museum in 1986, they probably couldn't imagine how much we'd be able to grow. But I'm certain they'd be very proud of the strides made by so many devoted volunteers over 30 years to keep the founding dreams alive," said Julie Zasada, CLHA Executive Director. "We look forward to becoming the preeminent gathering space for our community," added Jimmy Laud, Jr., board president of CLHA. "When people are looking for something to do in Cedar Lake, we want our museum to be the first place they think of."

MAP is a confidential process of self-study, peer review and implementation. Museums use the assessment process to strengthen operations, build capacity, and enhance communication throughout the organization and in response to community needs. Participant museums choose one of three categories for its assessment: Collections Stewardship Organizational, Community Engagement. CLHA will take part in the Community Engagement assessment process. Small and mid-sized museums of all

types, including art, history, science and technology, children's, natural history, historic houses, nature centers, botanical gardens, and zoos participate in the program.

“Choosing to be part of the MAP program is indicative of the commitment to civic involvement, public service and overall excellence on the part of the Cedar Lake Historical Association,” said Laura Lott, president of AAM. “Studies have shown America’s museums to be among the country’s most trusted and valued institutions. MAP is designed to make them even better.”

Since its creation in 1981, the MAP program has served over 4,300 museums. MAP is supported through a cooperative agreement with IMLS. For more information, including a complete list of museums participating in MAP, please visit www.aam-us.org/map, call 202/289-9118 or e-mail map@aam-us.org.

AAM is the only organization representing the nation’s entire museum community and has been dedicated to promoting excellence within the museum field for over 100 years. For more information about AAM, visit www.aam-us.org. The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. To learn more about the Institute, please visit: <http://www.imls.gov>.

CLHA offers an “Escape to the Past” with its many programs including live music Sundays, the 4th Annual Family Fun Fest on August 28th, behind-the-scenes tour on September 11th, and a special Bicentennial celebration during the Cedar Lake Hometown Fest on September 24th. The museum is open for tours Thursday and Friday from 3:00 to 6:00 pm and Saturday and Sunday from 2:00 to 6:00 pm. Special tours can be accommodated with advance notice as well. The museum is located on the Cedar Lake Town Grounds at 7408 Constitution Avenue on the lakeshore of Cedar Lake. For more information, call 219-390-9423 or visit www.cedarlakehistory.org.

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