Town of Romulus Historical Society Annual Report for 2020

We were looking forward to 2020 to be a banner year for the Romulus Historical Society. We had made contact with speakers and had money producing events planned. By March we were beginning to fear that our plans probably wouldn't happen due to the restrictions caused by the COVID 19 virus.

At this time, we have the assurance of several speakers and are looking forward to host in July the Middlebury College and the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum on their return to continue the search for sunken canal boats and the imaging of Seneca Lake. When they were here in June 2019, they were very gracious and took members of our community out in their research boat and demonstrated how their equipment worked and shared their findings. They also presented another successful program at the Romulus Town Hall which was open to the public. As in 2019 their research vessel will be stationed at the new Sampson marina courtesy of the State Parks and Recreation.

We are continuing our work with the group from Belgium working on the documentary of our area. One of their members was also working on his doctorate and presented a project titled *Country of Dix*, featuring the Town of Romulus and later winning a award.

The Department of Corrections and Community Supervision granted us permission in early 2020 to provide walking tours to small groups of the lower campus of the Drug

Treatment campus. Due to the pandemic those had to be canceled. We hope that conditions improve so that we can restore that permission as the tours would provide a needed source of revenue and address the very frequent requests from those who want to know more about Willard history.

In March 2020 one of our long-time members and supporters, Jane Dox, passed away. Several donations were received in her memory which we hope to apply to new exhibits.

At the request of the DOCCS and to protect our volunteers, we kept the facility closed for 2020 season due to the pandemic, having earlier planned for being open two days a week. Nonetheless, our volunteers continued to monitor the building on a weekly basis.

Our museum is in a very old building on the grounds of the former Willard Psychiatric Center. Due to the lack of insulation in the museum building, our fuel bills take up the majority of our operating costs. We were able to get several estimates for insulation and are seeking grant funds to accomplish the work.

Our goals this summer will be to increase membership in our society, have more programs for the public, develop an ongoing program with the after- school group and generate sufficient funds to manage our long- term goal of insulating the museum building.

We thank the Board of the Town of Romulus for their support and hope we will be able to work within the guidelines caused by the ongoing pandemic to be open to live up to our expectations.

Margaret Ellsworth, President, Board of Trustees