

BIG ARM ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER DEC 06, JAN 2007

Question? Ideas? call Alison 849-6628, Jan 5636, Kristin 5326, P.O. Box 11, BA or www.BigArmAssociation.org

GREETINGS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!! Miraculous things happened in 2006. Many wonderful accomplishments of the Big Arm Association took place this last year especially in the last couple of months. With help from Tribal members and Charles Becker of In-Sink Plumbing, we were able to get the septic system installed, water lines dug and connected to the fire hall. After that was accomplished, the Big Arm Association volunteers got busy with the renovations. When the painting was done and the floor was put down, toilets and sinks were hooked up, cabinets and countertops were installed. A brand new stove and refrigerator were purchased and the upstairs transformed into a wonderful area that will be nice for the firemen to use and the community to enjoy. The BAA held a sing along in November featuring Lou Jepson (fiddle) and Wilfred Kenmile (guitar) and we hosted a potluck-Christmas carol session the 16th of December featuring Marion Retzer on the keyboard. The two people who contributed the most time are Jeff and Alison Meslin. They organized and hauled materials, shopped and provided food for lunches, participated in all the work parties and basically made this project priority in their lives. On organized work days, the following volunteers came to help with the many tasks of completing the upstairs of this building. They are: Bob Geyer, Ron Friez, Dennis Wolfe, Ron Roberts, Luella and Arnold Gomke, Jim and Jan Phillips, Mark Richer, Keith Williams and Ross Hoyt. Jim Brandenburg, electrical contractor, updated and installed all the wiring. The tasks were many and varied but all were done with a lot of laughter and conversation. Terry Gembala, Polson rural volunteer fireman, even rounded up some volunteer firemen Jeff Meslin, Ron Friez, Tom & Ron Sadecki, Terry Gembala, Paul Fors and Joe Cope and they spent a Saturday morning putting up sheet rock in the downstairs area of the fire hall. A nice surprise happened at the fire hall during Christmas week a new sign appeared on the front of the building designating the building "Polson Rural Fire District, Station 2, Big Arm. Apparently, the Polson rural volunteer firefighters paid for it. The artists that volunteered to make a sign will now be able to spend more time on other signs and painting for the area. Thanks to all who helped and I apologize if I have left anyone out. Back in January of 2006 the newly organized Big Arm Association discovered that the lease on the property was expired and they worked with Tribal Officials to get the lease renewed and extended. A major community effort ensued to raise money to accomplish the needed upgrades to the building and grounds. Applications were given to people who were interested in becoming firefighters and Chief Maloney allowed some of them to become firefighters despite some of their ages. **Every month there were meetings and fundraisers, but the most wonderful thing that happened was the community molded together, people became acquainted with each other, a neighborhood mood came over the entire area of our community. We raised an incredible amount of money and good will and this "community" became cohesive.** The upstairs of the fire hall is a cozy area and the downstairs will be painted and brighter in the coming days. In the spring, more volunteers will come out to finish the outside of the building and grounds. I am proud to be part of the positive things that have taken place in Big Arm. Surely the fire chief is proud to have so many wonderful constituents helping his fire department. I am looking forward to many more wonderful community gatherings and visiting all the nice people who live and own property in Big Arm. **I applaud all of you!** Jan Phillips

Treasury Report: The fund balance is \$10,628.64. Most of the inside renovation are done, next will be the major project of exterior repair, painting and landscaping. We will start in the spring and will need plenty of help, thanks.

Monday Monthly meeting: we have been asked by several residents to have the monthly gatherings on Saturdays. We would really like some feed back from everyone as to which day is best, Please Call!

January Meeting.....Ethnic Potluck5:00 Saturday 27

February Meeting.....to be decided.....Saturday 24.

Big Arm History: During our research for saving the historic one room school house we were told many delightful stories from Peacocks running lose, to an ice storm involving the school bus, about buildings no longer standing, wonderful characters, and much more. Ross Hoyt has volunteered to be our local historian and we would like to help him by meeting with as many of you as possible to tape record your memories and make copies of old photographs. We are interested in all time periods from when only tribal families lived here to present day stories and what a story this past year will be for our Big Arm History Book. Please call Alison to arrange a visit

For lower Home Insurance Rates ask your agent if your policy has a "5" fire risk rating if the rate is higher ask your agent to contact Polson Rural Fire Chief to send a letter to your agent/ins. company verifying that you live within 5 miles of Polson Rural Fire District Station #2.

Web Page Advertising: Our web page is getting more and more visitors and in 2007 I am sure more tourists, new and current home owners will find our page most interesting and informative. We would like to list your business name for \$10 per year and if more information is needed a business card advertisement will cost \$25 per year.

GOALS FOR 2007:

We will endeavor to do everything in our power to save our historic school house and its surrounding land so this priceless building can be used for the enjoyment of the community and future generations. Over the next few months the S.O.S. (Save Our School) Committee will continue to negotiate with the District 23 School Board. We have petitioned the National Registry of Historic Buildings and although it has not been reviewed yet we have been told that it will be successful. In the meantime we will be raising money to help with the potential renovation of this wonderful building. **Please help with this fund.**

By Spring we hope to have the Fire Hall Completed. Earth Day weekend we will organize our 3rd garbage collection day to free beautiful Big Arm of highway litter. We will continue to hold monthly gatherings and would welcome ideas to make these fun and informative. We will be glad to organize card, chess or other tournaments, craft and do-it-yourself classes, fly-tying and much more just call us with your great ideas 849-6628. We will continue to support our brave firefighters. We will keep everyone informed of our progress and activities. (An email address for this would save in postage, Thanks).

BIG ARM ASSOCIATION APPRECIATES YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND IDEAS. THANKS!