



# FINN CAMP NEWSLETTER

March 2021



Photo by Erin Sturr

## Birthday Celebration

A big hug and thank you to all who planned and shared my 90th Birthday. The beautiful hand-made decorations on the vehicles, the voices wishing me happiness and the gifts of things I love. What a great addition to my day. Love, Delores Kansman.



Photo by Erin Sturr

## Annual Membership Meeting

The 2021 Annual Membership Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 25 beginning at 12:00 noon. Registration begins at 11:00 a.m. The annual meeting will be held outside at the dance hall, weather & state restrictions permitting. In order to expedite the meeting committee chairs will not be giving oral reports.

The board is asking for all committee reports to be submitted in writing by April 10th (email [board@finncamp.org](mailto:board@finncamp.org)).

Copies of reports will be available.

There will be no food at this year's meeting. *Face masks are highly recommended.* It is very important that all members attend the meeting and be part of the decision making process of our association. Many issues will be discussed and voted on.

Motions will be proposed to spend special projects money: not more than \$15,000 to cover expenses & lost revenue due to COVID closures and not more than \$20,000 to have natural gas lines installed at both camp bathrooms (to replace the propane).

## CALENDAR

### March

- 6—**Future Planning Committee**, 7:00 PM, boardroom
- 7—**Board Meeting**, 9:00 AM, visitors at 11:00 AM,
- 14—**Forest Management Committee** 10:00 AM, meet at the pole barn

### April

- 3—**Future Planning Committee**, 7:00 PM, Clubroom
- 11—**Board Meeting**, 9:00 AM, visitors at 11:00 AM.
- 11—**Forest Management Committee** 10:00 AM, meet at the pole barn
- 25—**Annual Membership Meeting** 12:00 noon, outside the dance hall  
Registration begins at 11:00 a.m.

**Clubroom:** Closed until further notice

**Sauna Hours:** Saturdays & Sundays  
12:00 Noon to 9:00 PM by Apponitment

### UPCOMING EVENTS;

*Note: Not all events are listed on this and other DFCSA calendars. If you are planning an event, check availability of the specific facility on a certain date, please call 248-882-4626*

**All newsletter material is due on the 15th of the previous month.**



## St. Urho's Party

Due to state restrictions, we are not able to have the St Urho's party in March

— THE SAUNA IS OPEN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY! —

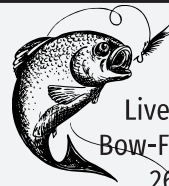
The sauna will be open 12:00 noon to 9:00 p.m. Saturdays & Sundays by appointment only using Signup Genius. A new signup link will be emailed and put on the Members Only Facebook Page at the beginning of each week. Sunday sauna will only be available if we have a volunteer to run it for work hours.

Sauna is limited to one 2-hour slot per person per day for members only - no guests permitted at this time. Sauna is by appointment only (no walk-ins) on a first-come first serve basis with 6 people allowed per 2-hour period per side. If you are not signed up via the Sign-up Genius link you will not be permitted to use the sauna. If you are on the delinquent list you will not be permitted to sign-up for sauna until your delinquency status has been lifted.

Only 6 people are permitted in each dressing room and 5 permitted inside the sauna at any one time. Do not attend sauna if you are ill. Each person will be asked COVID-19 screening questions upon entry. Please check in with the sauna manager before entering the building. A 24-hour notice to cancel your sauna appointment is required; otherwise you will be billed for the sauna fee of \$3.00 Please arrive promptly at your scheduled time, not earlier (please wait in your car if you are early). You must be out of the dressing room by the end of your scheduled time. Please be courteous to your fellow members. The sauna will be closed 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. for sanitation.

If the sauna must be closed or cancelled due to State Health Orders, a member of the Board of Directors will contact everyone who signed up that day. 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. is reserved for those 65 years of age and older and those individuals with health risks.

Children of all ages count as 1 person so please include them on the signup if they are attending sauna. The lounge area remains closed. You may walk through to the dressing rooms but do not congregate in the lounge. You are required to wear a mask upon entry / exit and inside the dressing rooms and in the bathrooms. It is recommended that masks be worn inside the sauna but is not required. **If you are not receiving the email blasts and would like to be added to the list, please email [newsletter\\_editor@finncamp.org](mailto:newsletter_editor@finncamp.org)** We are excited to be open again! Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.



## Lakes Area Bait Shop

Live Bait • Reloading • Fishing Supplies  
Bow-Fishing & Archery • Hunting • Camping  
2600 Benstien Rd. Wolverine Lake  
We're just south of Glengary Road  
248-624-3333

[LakesAreaBaitShop@Yahoo.com](mailto:LakesAreaBaitShop@Yahoo.com)

Suppliers to the Finn Camp Fishing Derby

## PRIVATE SAUNA RENTALS

If you are interested in renting the sauna for private use outside normal operating hours, you can make arrangements through the social director, Joni Sennhenn, at 248-882-4626. The number of occupants for private rentals is limited until further notice to 6 people per side. It is \$25 per hour per side to rent (minimum of 2 hours) with a refundable \$50 cleaning deposit. You can rent one or both sides. The renter is responsible for cleaning the sauna, dressing room, bathroom and shower area after use in order for the cleaning deposit to be refunded. The member must be in good standing (zero balance on Finn Camp account) to rent the sauna. The contract and payment must be submitted to the social director prior to the date of rental.

## Cords of Firewood For sale

**\$55 for members.**

*Delivery is extra*

to schedule loading and pick up.

Call or text Mike Honka at 248-860-5109

*Please do not help yourself to the firewood.*

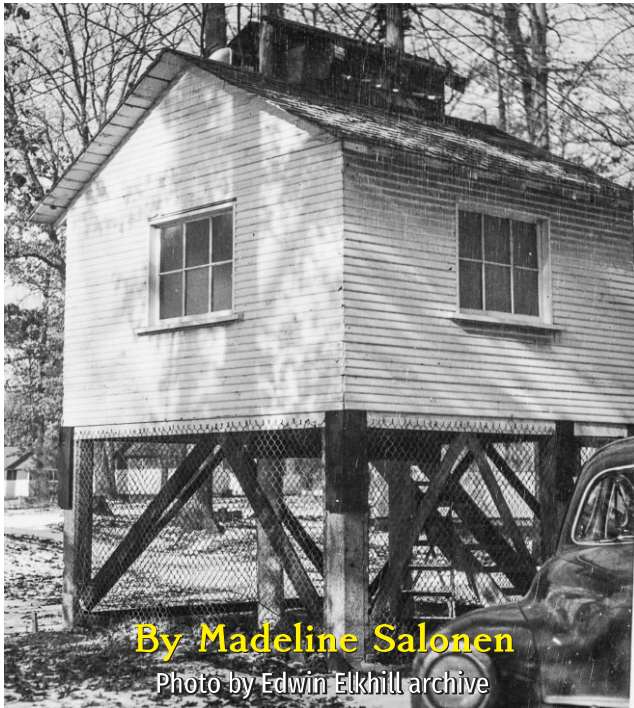
## WORK HOURS OPPORTUNITY

### Running the Sauna

We need someone to run the sauna Sunday, March 14th from 12pm-10pm. Sauna is open from 12:00 noon to 9:00 p.m. and you get 1 hour for cleaning after close. You can use the link below to sign up to run the sauna. As a reminder each membership is required to complete 24 work hours per year, due by October 31. Every unworked hour will be invoiced to the member at \$20 per hour. Don't wait until the last minute to get your 24!  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508094BADA728ABF58-sauna>



## HISTORY OF THE POWER HOUSE



If you're like me, it's easy to walk past the original structures on the Finn Camp grounds and take them for granted. But each one--built in the last century--has played an important role in the history of this heritage site, and we owe much to them for the comforts we enjoy today.

My husband Eero and I own one of the camps opposite the tan-colored power house. It's an old utilitarian clapboard building, the cracked window filled with discarded boxes, the white tip of the structure still not painted to match the tan paint of the upper section. And, yet, over the years I've come to appreciate and love this old landmark. When Eero was asked to fortify the supporting posts and paint the screening a few years ago, I became interested in the age and history of this historic building, but it wasn't until I started digging for information for this article, that I got some answers. I was pointed in the direction of several helpful camp members: Harry Kansman, Russ Matero and Carol Melancon, who provided the information below.

The power house was probably built in 1946--just after WWII came to an end and 20 years after the first camp had been built--in a style all its own. Russ Matero suspects that much of the installation of the electric poles and wires, as well as the wiring, were done by Camp members. According to Russ, "in the 1970's the main circuit breakers and wiring inside of the power house had a major upgrade by former member and electrician Corky Koronan. During the 1960's and 1970's, member Jack Karell and his son Mark replaced

old poles and broken wires, but most electric poles were getting so bad that the Camp Country electrical needed a major upgrade." This upgrade--a replacement of all electric poles, wires and Camp meters--was completed around 1982 by an outside contractor for \$40,000 which would be approximately \$110,000 today.

Russ speculates that the power house was "probably [...] designed with an elevated floor so that all the main circuit breakers and main meter were at the same level as the incoming and outgoing wires to keep the [electrical] design simple." He also suggests that the lower half was probably left open since it had no specific function other than to support the top level. He adds that the central location for the power house was close to the nearby DTE [formerly Detroit Edison] electric lines which then allowed electricity to be supplied to both the west- and east-side camps. It's impressive to think about all the construction that was done before the power house was built. Consider the existing ravintola and the tanssi saali [dance hall]. How much man power was needed to complete such large projects? Or to dig the canal from Sun Lake to Loon Lake? How were trees trimmed or cut down? And think of the work to haul the water to make food and then wash the dishes! How much leisure time was left for the adults?!

## LIFE AT THE FINN CAMP BEFORE ELECTRICITY



How did Finn Camp members manage before they had electricity? We know that original camps had canvas walls that were gradually replaced by more permanent structures and that of necessity life had to be simple. But what was daily life actually like? How did they keep their dairy products cold? Without refrigerators, there were, for sure, no ice cubes to cool summer drinks! Did they cook outdoors on an open fire? Or did they eat communally at the summer kitchen? Did they use kerosene lamps, candles to light their camps at night? Or did they just go to bed early? Certainly there wouldn't have been flush toilets and hot showers. What were the bathrooms like?



For these answers, I turned to one of our most senior members, Harry Kansman, as well as to Carol Melancon, who wrote an article about the Finn Camp's 90th Anniversary for the Finnish American Reporter. Harry's family had an eastside camp, which was lit with kerosene lanterns, as were most camps. Cooking was done on a kerosene stove [see photo above]. Keeping dairy cold was clearly a bigger challenge without refrigerators, but there were two solutions: an icebox, into which an ice block was placed, as the Kansmans did; or, a cold storage box dug into the earth beneath the camp. Ice blocks were available at the Camp Store located beneath the Dance Hall. As to bathroom facilities? Harry tells us that there were several outhouses on the property and water was pumped from a few wells. One of those wells is still in use in the "inner circle" on the east side.



The power house changed how Finn campers lived after 1946 and how we live now... fans help to cool our camps, kerosene stoves have given way to cooktops and microwaves, electric lights brighten our camps, and refrigerators keep perishables safe and cold. Outhouses have been replaced by bathrooms and showers--even if they're some steps away. By some folks' standards, it's pretty rustic living. But for those of us who are fortunate enough to own a camp, we understand that it's all part of the twentieth-century Finn Camp experience. And we cherish our rustic life--if only for a day or two at a time.



### Affinity Promotions

Do you have an upcoming family reunion that you need t-shirts or little gifts?

Are you a business that has a trade show coming up and you need booth giveaways or a unique item to hand out to prospective clients?

We can help with all of the above and more.

*Give me a call at 248-640-0481*

or visit my website and let me help you with your marketing needs. **Denise Niemasz**

### Your Classified Ad could be here

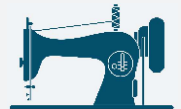
If you're a member it's free to run a Classified Ad  
*See the last page of this newsletter for details*

### Need a Seamstress?

For All Your Alterations

Custom Work & Mending

**Call Cindi Maddick at 248-303-7337**





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## AUDITOR COMMITTEE NEWS

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The Finn Camp Store, Recreation Committee, Bar Committee and SisU Sisters are required to turn in their financial records for the year to any one of the auditors (Greg Peltó, Sam Dernberger, Carol Barber, Kristen Tury), or give them to a board member to put on the Boardroom table.

We need the inventory from the bar and the store and the cash records from both the SISU Sisters and the Recreation Committee by February 28. The year's reports should be submitted no later than March 31. We will have them back to you as soon as we can. Thank you.



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## ANNUAL FINN CAMP ASSESSMENT

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Your annual Finn Camp assessment was invoiced on February 1 and is due by March 1. If you chose to receive your invoice via email you will not receive a paper copy in the mail and it will be emailed from [quickbooks@notification.intuit.com](mailto:quickbooks@notification.intuit.com).

*If you have not received your invoice by February 10, please email [treasurer@finncamp.org](mailto:treasurer@finncamp.org).*

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Photo by Mary Burck

### SISU Sisters Corner

The lovely Finn Camp Butterfly Garden--home to indigenous plants that attract and support butterflies--was established in 2014. The humble milkweed plays an important role in the garden: caterpillars that munch on milkweed safely ingest a toxin that is poisonous to many other species; this toxin affords caterpillars protection from predators.



Photo by Tammy King

Last summer we had a surprise "guest" at the Butterfly Garden--a praying mantis--which many of us thought was a welcome member to the --

family of creatures. That is, until Tracey Calnen brought to my attention that the mantis kills butterflies! Needless to say, it was a bit of a shock. I have read many articles, watched numerous videos, etc, and have never seen this nugget of important information. Please be on the lookout for this unwanted visitor in your butterfly garden, too.



Photo by Gavin Wing, Jr.

An especially nice addition--for both the butterflies and members--has been the Giving Herb Garden, where butterflies can feast to hearts' content and members can help themselves to wonderful, fresh thyme, oregano, cilantro, parsley, basil and tomatoes. Did you try a "black tomato" or kumato last summer--a nice firm tomato with great flavor!

A nearby hose has been hung on the ravintola wall--it's in easy reach to water the thirsty garden in hot summer months. We appreciate members' help in giving our plants a little drink!

We're excited that the garden has continued to mature and improve over the last six years!



## BOARD NOTES & REMINDERS

The Board is accepting applications for all paid positions such as Bookkeeper, Caretaker, Bar Manager, Assistant Bar Manager, Beach Manager, etc. All applications should be in writing and submitted to the Board of Directors by April 1.

New work hour cards are now located at the sauna building and the clubroom.

In April 2021 there will be four seats open on the board. Please consider running for a position. We need YOU!

The Board would like to remind all members that the use of heavy equipment must only be done with approval of the mechanical committee. Contact the board for permission to use the equipment.

Members with suggestions, comments or board-related business are asked to e-mail [board@finncamp.org](mailto:board@finncamp.org). General questions may be answered by visiting [www.finncamp.org](http://www.finncamp.org).

**Attention all committees:** The Board would like for you to communicate with us regarding events, projects and fund-raises you are planning. We would like to support your endeavors and projects and would like to make sure that multiple committees are not planning on tackling the same area to prevent overlapping, or we can connect those committees so they can work together. The social director should also be contacted prior to scheduling events to prevent conflicts with other events or activities.

**Trash Rules:** Dumpsters are for members use only! Do not put in large or long items that may wedge or jam the dumpster when being tipped into the garbage truck. No major dumping on festival weekends. No overfilling. No furniture, propane tanks, wood, construction materials or other large items are to be left in, by or around the dumpster. Large items can be placed at roadside near the tractor garage on Tuesdays for Wednesday pickup. The dumpster at Sun Lake is for Finn Camp projects only. No personal or camp debris is allowed.

The board is looking for a volunteer to be the head of the maintenance committee. Please contact the Board of Directors.

The Finn Camp has a member's only group on Facebook. If you are not a member of the group and would like to be added contact Linda Gooden at [gooden\\_71@hotmail.com](mailto:gooden_71@hotmail.com) with your email address and she will add you to the group. This group will include private members only events. Work projects can be another form of communication to our members.

You can now pay your Finn Camp bill online with PayPal by using [treasurer@finncamp.org](mailto:treasurer@finncamp.org). You must select "Transfer to friends & family" and pay directly from your PayPal or bank account to avoid a fee. All fees incurred by Finn Camp will be charged to that member's account. Fees will be charged if paying with a credit card or selecting "transfer for goods or services."

The camp social director is Joni Sennhenn. Please contact Joni at 248-882-4626 to make a reservations for the beach and sauna area, the Kenttä, Dance Hall or Clubroom. Note: There is no rental fee for committee sponsored events. You will need to go through the social director however to ensure the venue is available.



### Automotive Repair

If you are looking for a great mechanic and want a fair price look no more. I am a certified automotive technician. If you are in need of light auto repairs please give me a call!

**Rob Zewatsky 248-877-0601**

Estimates will be provided with every request!

## Finn Camp Store



*Come shop at the Finn Camp store.*  
Lots of new tee shirts, mugs, hats and back packs.  
For access to the store during off hours,  
call Patti Leppi, Ph: 248-921-1432,  
or email, [Store@finncamp.org](mailto:Store@finncamp.org).



### Free "Classified" Ads

All members are invited to list here any services—for pay or barter—that they would like to advertise, whether it's a service such as handyman or seamstress or pet care or seasonal activities like garage sales. All you have to do is provide the following information:

- The type of service offered; a description of just what you do as the service provider;
- Your price (hourly rate, job rate, to be negotiated, or whatever);
- Your name; and your contact information (preferred method and times: phone, email, etc.).
- Total length, including spaces, should not exceed 50 words, not counting the headings. (Over 50 word copy will be edited to fit.)
- The deadline is the same as the date for newsletter copy: the 15th of each month.

### BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

#### Board of Directors

Sunday, March 7, 9:00 a.m., visitors at 11:00 a.m.

#### Future Planning

Wednesday, March 3, 7:00 p.m., board

#### Forest Management

Sunday, March 14, 10:00 a.m., meet at the pole barn

### Work Projects Update

We all enjoy the summers at the Finn Camp swimming and spending time in the warm sun, but there are a lot of maintenance to do. In February, the fishing dock deck got replaced. The best way to do this work is in the winter when the ice is thick enough. A little more work will be done this spring to complete the job. Great job to all who worked the two days in the cold.

#### Members who worked on the deck were

Delle Aro,	Cody Barrons,
Drew Sennhenn,	Matt Paukovits,
Ethan Paukovits,	Keith Maddick
Steve Maki.	

Thanks to these members and also to friends of Finn Camp *Matt G. and Jim K.*

Sunday February 21, Forest Management committee met and took down a tree on the westside camp country. No camps were harmed.



### Finn Camp Newsletter

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*All material for newsletter articles is due by the 15th of the month. Please visit the Finn Camp website at*



Photos by Erick Leskinen

