Since its establishment in 1992 the Almira Historical Society has had a single goal; to protect and preserve the history and artifacts of Almira Township and the Village of Lake Ann. As we conclude another year we look back with satisfaction on all we have accomplished and know it would not be possible without your continued support.

We are pleased that the 1946 International fire truck has been revived and for the first time in several years, is road ready. Many thanks to Phillip Johnson and Brian Kaminski for donating their time to this project.

The flagpole that was located for many years next to the Township Hall in the Village and was gifted to us several years ago, has been relocated in our site plan revision. It has been newly painted and placed near the Babcock House. The interior painting of the first floor of the Babcock House has also been completed. We appreciate the many hours devoted to these projects by Pete and Jenelle Derusha. Special thanks to Buddy Bothwell for building a wall cabinet in the Babcock House, a replica of the original cabinet. We look forward to having the Babcock House restoration completed before the Lake Ann Homecoming and plan to have an open house before July.

The third annual October Family Fun Day was enjoyed by many who braved the cold to attend. The musicians were moved to the fire barn and provided their special “old time” music inside. We would like to thank our musicians who donated their afternoon for this event: Marvin and Anne Ze Rosa, Billy Morse, Oscar Jaquish, Rayle, Mable and Howard Foust, and the Betsie Bay Minstrels. Children enjoyed the projects and treats in spite of the weather. Plan to join us this fall for more family fun.

The 19th Annual Lake Ann Homecoming this year included the 150th Celebration of the first early settlers in Almira Township. The parade included the wagon from the early 1900’s belonging to John Wheelock. He used the wagon to transport potatoes from his farm at Long Lake to Traverse City. Many local Wheelock descendants rode on the wagon in the parade.

New to the museum collection is a very old metal breadbox that has been repaired with wire. It demonstrates the era when it was common to conserve and use rather than buying new. Thanks to Marie Sturmer for sharing this. Also, we have received a hand crafted, wooden sap bucket that was made circa 1890. Thanks to Joanne Clark for providing us with this part of her family history. We are so fortunate to have received these very special artifacts. Please stop by the Museum and let us share them with you.

As we continue our work to save treasured pieces of our heritage, we want to thank our dedicated members and friends for their past support. We are asking you to again help us in our latest endeavor. We look forward to adding an annex to the north end of the museum building. This would include additional display area; much needed storage space, an office and meeting room. We hope that financial constraints won’t prevent us from acting on this critical need. We appreciate your past generosity that has allowed us to accomplish so much and hope you will again be able to join us as we begin this latest project. Your tax-deductible contribution will be greatly appreciated.