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# ◆Town of Canosia Newsletter◆

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Volume 3 Issue 8

December 1997

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## Canosia Volunteer Firemen Dedicated Effort started in 1949

In July of 1949, thirteen Canosia residents met at the Town Hall to discuss with the State Fire Marshall and a captain of the Duluth Fire Department the problems of forming a volunteer fire department. Local people were confident they could go ahead and hold an organizational meeting, and they advertised, through newspapers and radio, and also contacted the Rice Lake Fire Department and TOFF (Township Organized Fire Fighters) for advice. On July 19, 1949, at a meeting in the Town Hall, the Canosia Volunteer Fire Department was officially organized. With Isadore Dunaisky as acting chairman, Bertha Pederson as secretary and Chris Hanson representing the Town Board, the following temporary officers were elected to serve on the new Canosia Volunteer Fire Department:

- Chief - Art Anderson;
- Assistant Chief - Ed Bessay;
- Fire Marshall - Frank Dubla;
- President - George Nickelson
- Vice President - Evyand Rathe;
- Secretary - Warren Whitely;
- Treasurer - Melvin Abrahamson.

At the meeting, several members of TOFF described some common problems of a volunteer department and offered their assistance. Since none of Canosia's neighbors such as Grand Lake, Herman and Fredenberg had their own fire departments, mutual aid boundaries would be worked out though the years.

The old fire truck, a 1940 Dodge purchased by Ray Kehtel, was stored at the 5th District County Tool House at Four Corners and, from the beginning, the county was supportive with help on the vehicle.

The new Fire Department had many issues to solve: by-laws, incorporation, insurance, retirement benefits and others, besides retrofitting an old truck. But, through the first critical years, money was raised to cover basic expenses.

Fund raising was aggressive, and the community responded. The earliest Department minutes list money constantly trickling in from luncheons, bake sales and a smorgasbord, events often held by wives of the firemen, as well as donations from area businesses.

*(Continued on page 2)*

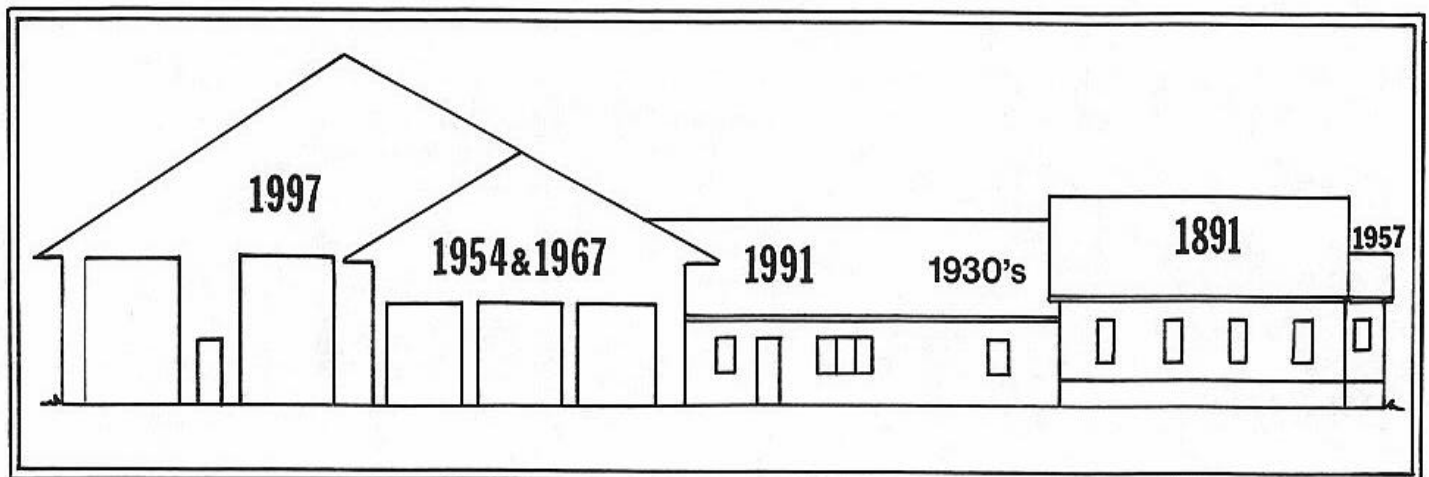
## Firemen Still Working: Construction Up-Date

Contractors and volunteer firemen are working hard to complete the enclosure of the fire hall addition. Trusses, roof sheeting and garage door installation was completed just eight hours prior the the first snow fall of the 1997-98 winter season. Presently inside insulation, sheet rock, electrical wiring is partially completed. Heating system and the completion of the wiring should be done by the first week of January 98.

The entire Canosia Fire Department would like to extend their appreciation to the residents of Canosia for allowing the expansion of the Fire Hall. This addition will make it much easier for them to respond to emergency calls.

Upon completion of work on the fire hall area, they will begin sheet rocking the "Back 40" feet of the building. This area will be available for the town to store equipment which is currently being stored in several areas away from the Town Hall. This space also could be used for additional office space and record storage facility.

***Happy Holidays and a  
Fire Free New Year from  
the Canosia Firemen***



## Volunteer Firemen Do More Than Put Out Fires

(Continued from page 1)

The Old Pike Lake Community Club turned over their remaining funds; the former Civilian Defense Fund members donated their treasury balance; the Pike Lake Homemakers raised money; and the newly-formed Pike Lake Community Club began their own campaign. There were fund raising dances held at the Hollywood Inn, the Auto Club, the Jackson Club and Kehtel's Resort.

Canosia firefighters soon realized they would have to publicize their new emergency fire phone number (Melrose 1069) so they bought a postcard printer and, using the county's mobile X-Ray unit mailing list, notified Canosia residents.

Until a fire hall was built in 1954, Canosia firemen met at the County Tool House, where they worked on the truck, adding ladders and other equipment and practiced fire runs. A whistle siren had been donated to the fire department and (according to their minutes) one fireman suggested they try it out first before cutting a hole in the building. And it did work.

In the fall of 1949, after Gordon Bromme, a First Aid specialist, had opened his new store at Four Corners, he began classes for the firemen. A few stretchers were located and several people donated blankets.

In October of 1949, Canosia firemen rushed to a fire on the Miller Trunk in Herman Township where a barn with 45 tons of hay was already lost, but the firemen saved the home and milk house. In February of 1950, when department members on their way to work saw smoke at Gallaghers on the Miller Trunk, they "put out the fire with water pumps before the Rice Lake Fire Department got there" - as summarized in their minutes. There were several Canosia fires, one minor and one with property losses and, the following August, the men fought another Herman house fire. The department was now measuring their response time, gradually acquiring newer equipment and planning for the first fire hall.

The old Fire Department minutes

from the formative years list many volunteers. A few were newly-arrived residents, but many were people who had seen the tragedies of rural fires unchecked by skilled firefighters, and several knew firsthand the awful days of the 1918 Forest Fire. To them, and all who follow as volunteers, this article is dedicated.



## Can You Be Found in an Emergency? Is Your 911 House Number Visible?

The 911 telecommunicators use your physical address. That is, your house number and street name is their primary location tool in all of St. Louis County. But, your help is also needed. If you ever need to call 911, stay on the line and verify your location with the telecommunicator. **AND**, the proper display of your house number is very important so that the police, fire or ambulance service can find you.

Here's a few things to think about:

- Can your house number be seen from the road?
- If your address is on your mailbox, can it be seen from either direction?
- Is it obvious which mailbox goes with which house, or is it in a group?
- And, is your mailbox even in front of **YOUR** house?
- Can your house number be seen at night?
- In an emergency, you cannot expect to be found, if you simply tell them, "the white house with blue shutters after the big oak tree."

The 911 addressing system has rules for posting assigned addresses in a uniform manner so emergency vehicles can easily locate the property. St. Louis County has adopted the following regulations on sign placement in order to achieve this goal:

1. The sign should be parallel to the driving surface; existing sign posts may be used if they are in general conformance with the standards listed below.
2. If your home or cabin is located more

## Canosia First Responders Prevent Paralysis

James Grussendorf was seriously injured in a four-car collision at the corner of Martin and LaVaque Roads. The conditions were fog and ice.

Grussendorf suffered a fractured vertebra in his neck, injury to his wrist and ribs. The family and doctors credited the first responder at the scene for a "remarkable job". "If they had not treated Jim as they did, he could have been paralyzed. It was a miracle he came

than fifty feet from the edge of the road driving surface you must place your address sign on a post located in the road right-of-way not closer than ten feet off the road driving surface and within ten feet of your driveway.

3. If your home is closer than 50 feet from the road but it is obscured by trees, hills, or other structures, you must also post it in the same location covered in Two above.
4. If your home is within 50 feet of the road and is not obstructed by trees or other objects you may post your address on your structure in an area visible from the road.
5. It is your responsibility to maintain the address sign so that it is visible year round from the road. This means keeping it free from snow, foliage or damage. New signs can be obtained by calling the St. Louis County Health Department.
6. If multiple homes are on a private drive, there should be a sign on the main road and a sign in front of the home to show location off the drive.
7. A fine of up to \$100 may be imposed if the structure owner does not follow these and other guidelines found in County Ordinance #41. The County may withhold other permits, licenses and applications for home and business owners not in compliance with Ordinance #41. A copy of the ordinance can be inspected in the County Auditor's office.

## Cemetery Rules and Fees Adopted

On December 3, 1997 the Town Board adopted rules relating to the operation of its cemetery. The cemetery is located at the junction of Midway Road and Seville Road, a short distance south of the Intersection of Midway Road and U.S. Highway 53. The rules are effective as of January 1, 1998.

Canosia Township, incorporated in 1888, lacked a burial ground until land was donated in the early 1890's. Some of Canosia's immigrant pioneers, along with residents of Grand Lake and Fredenberg, (formerly incorporated with Canosia) are buried here. The first cemetery ledgers were destroyed in the 1918 Forest Fire but subsequent town clerks reconstructed the listing. Some WPA funding in the 1930's and 1940's allowed the town to add a few improvements.

Until now the operation of the cemetery has been by action of each Town Board. There were no written rules, except for occasional motions by the Town Board. Many improvements have occurred at the cemetery in the last three years and it was felt that it was time to pass some of the expenses on to the users of the cemetery. Cost of a burial plot will now be \$100 for residents of Canosia Township and \$400 for non-residents. If a family wishes to reserve a cemetery plot the charge will be \$500 for residents and \$1000 for non-residents.

## Town Purchases Pike Lake Tavern Property

Canosia Town Board members met on November 17, 1997 at the offices of Orman and Nord to finalize the purchase of the Pike Lake Tavern. The land and building are adjacent to the Town Hall and will provide additional space for the many activities that take place at the Town Hall.

The Pike Lake Tavern was formerly operated by Annabelle Janov and was purchased from Pat Larson. The parcel has approximately 105 feet of frontage on Midway Road and is 210 feet deep.



## Did You Know...

- ⇒ Cable Systems Management of Iowa, Inc. (CSMI) has just completed the purchase of Regional Cable TV systems. CSMI is located in Eagan, Minn. Their phone number is **1-800-247-1566**. Representatives will be present at the next Town Board Meeting on January 7.
- ⇒ Martin Road by Pike Lake Elementary School now has a "School Zone Crossing" sign. The posted speed limit is 45 mph. ***The fine for School Zone and Work Zone offenses are doubled!***
  - \* 1 -10 mph over posted is \$ 99.00
  - \* 11-14 mph over posted is \$120.50
  - \* 15-20 mph over posted is \$142.00
  - \* 21-25 mph over posted is \$163.50
  - \* 26-30 mph over posted is \$228.00
- ⇒ Carmen Orman has been named St. Louis County Association of Townships Officer of the Year.
- ⇒ Your dog must be registered with the Canosia Town Clerk. Fee: \$2.00
- ⇒ St. Louis County has 7092.5 square miles and is larger than Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Hawaii.

## Official Posting Places for Canosia Township:

Town Hall  
Paulson's Super Value

## Town Board

*Regular Scheduled Meeting; 7pm  
First Wednesday of the Month*

Louis Dubla, Chair  
729-7453

Carmen Orman, Supervisor  
729-7329

Russell Georgesen, Supervisor  
729-8108 E-mail: rgeorgesen@aol.com

Dorothy Ferguson, Treasurer  
729-5931

Mary Jo Swor, Clerk  
729-6759

## Planning and Zoning

*Regular scheduled Meeting; 7pm  
Second Wednesday of the Month*

Russ Georgesen, Chair  
729-8108 E-mail: rgeorgesen@aol.com

Bill McKinnon, Zoning Director  
729-7946

## Police Department

Thomas Amendola, Chief Dial 911  
E-mail: canosia@computerpro.com

## Fire Department

Percy Johnson, Chief  
Dial 911  
*Business Meeting; 7pm  
Second Tuesday of Month  
Training Sessions; 7pm  
Third & Fourth Tuesday of the Month*

## Recreation Commission

Jeff Erikson, Chair 729-5570  
*Regular scheduled Meeting; 7pm  
Third Sunday of the Month*

## Town Hall

4896 Midway Road  
729-6211 FAX: 729-9833  
E-mail: canosia@computerpro.com

## Recycling Center

4896 Midway Road (by Town Hall)  
*Hours of Operation:  
Tuesday and Thursday;  
5:00 PM to 9:00 PM  
Saturday; 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM*

**Airbus Area Zoning Change Approved by Planning & Zoning; Town Board Public Hearing January 7, 1998 at 6 PM**

The Planning and Zoning Commission held a public hearing on the proposed Commercial/Light Industrial Use District (COMLIN) for Section 36 and the south portion of Section 25 on November 12, 1997.

The purpose of the district is to establish an area near the Northwest Air Bus Facility which will promote the efficient delivery of goods and services to employees of Northwest and the residents of the local area, while assuring the integrity of surrounding land uses.

The Planning Commission voted unanimously to accept all zoning changes as presented. The commission has spent many months on this issue and feel that this proposal is consistent with the Comprehensive land Use Plan of 1996. Now the Town Board must hold its Public

**Town Board Votes to Increase Land Use Fees**

<b>Land Use Permits - Residential</b>	
Single family dwelling (<601sq.ft.)	\$ 75
Single family dwelling (601-1400sq.ft.)	\$150
Single family dwelling (>1401sq.ft.)	\$250
Single family dwelling addition 126sq.ft.	\$ 50
Single family dwelling addition 126-300	\$ 75
Single family dwelling addition >301sq.ft	\$100
Accessory building "A" (< 201 sq. ft.)	\$ 50
Accessory building "B" (201-800 sq.ft.)	\$ 75
Accessory building "C" (>801 sq. ft.)	\$100
Accessory building - Addition	\$ 50
Variance	\$300
Condit ional use (Residential)	\$300
Deck	\$ 50
Late Fee Factor	2x
<b>Land Use Permits - Commercial</b>	
Commercial building	\$200
Commercial building - Addition	\$200
Commercial Accessory building	\$100
Variance	\$400
Conditional Use (Commercial Permit)	\$400
Deck	\$ 50
Home Occupation	\$ 50
Late Fee Factor	2x

**Wastewater Committee Working on Funding**

The Public Hearing for the Pike Lake Wastewater Facility Plan was held on September 29, 1997. Grand Lake and Canosia Townships voted to approve the plan as presented by Bonestroo engineers. October 1, 1997 the plan was forwarded to Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) for review and placement on the Intended Use Plan (IUP). Presently we are listed at number 93. This is due to the fact that a complete review of the project has not been completed. A meeting with the Public Facility Authority (PFA) is scheduled for Monday, December 15th. At this meeting, the committee will be briefed by Terry Kuhlman, director of PFA, Jeff Riesberg, MPCA funding coordinator and Bill Priebe, MPCA engineer reviewing the Plan.

The next step is for the townships to sign a Joint Powers Agreement and then decide whether or not to proceed with engineering construction plans. Bonestroo's estimated engineering fee is \$286,000. In order to secure Wastewater Funds the committee may be required to have these plans completed prior to receiving funding approval from the



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**Canosia Town Hall  
4896 Midway Road  
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**Watch for our web site at: [WWW.computerpro.com](http://WWW.computerpro.com)**

A Publication by the Canosia Town Board covering issues pertaining to Town Business. This is not an official document and does not replace official posted notices. *Russ Georgesen, Editor*