

2017 Annual Report
Ernest C. Oberholtzer Foundation



MALLARD ISLAND IN RAINY LAKE

Northern Lights over Jackfish Island

IMAGE CAPTURED BY DICK ISENHART

Organization incorporated in 1964, a 501(c)3 nonprofit and a private operating foundation

Employer ID # 41-6042619 ~ Visit www.eober.org

“The Ernest C. Oberholtzer Foundation maintains Ober’s legacy and north woods island home as a source of inspiration, renewal, and connection to Indigenous Peoples, kindred spirits, and the natural world.”

Dear Friends of Mallard Island and the Oberholtzer Foundation,



Looking back on life, there are those times just *before* change, just before a new area of study or schooling, or just before a new decision. And I believe those “before times” are equally important to the transition. Maybe more so. What does it take to come to the realization that some things might be done a little differently?

For us, it took decades, then it took a few key questions, and we reacted to the death of a friend. All came together in the September board meeting as directors sat in the drum room on Mallard Island and declared 2018 a “year of reflection and renewal.” Since then, we have been defining what we meant. We overlaid the concept of “renewal,” which was different for most of us, on top of the island’s summer schedule, the projected number of hosted weeks, the rest weeks, and the education we offer about this place and Ober’s legacy. Mallard is often our teacher, and we also want to listen closely to what the island has to teach us this summer.

We all live on an island-- the blue-green orb some lovingly call *Mother Earth*. She is already trying to teach us a great deal, yet few of our leaders seem to be listening. Perhaps as we learn how to live ever more sustainably on a tiny, rocky island in Rainy Lake, we can extrapolate some lessons to our planet.

Tim Heinle’s death was a huge blow in 2017, and it came as a surprise to us as it did to his family-- after a surgery and medical care in Duluth. We will miss Tim for as long as we carry on in his name, and that will be a long, long time. “Legacy” is often defined by Mr. Oberholtzer for us, but it’s also true that many of us attach our own life’s direction or goals to his island place for years on end. Tim loved the island and people who enjoyed time there; I can still hear that motor as Tim’s boat would round the bend on Crow.

Other remarkable “happenings” in 2017 include the introduction of a few fine new board members. It’s heartening to know that this legacy continues to attract great volunteers, decade after decade, and we were very happy to welcome new directors to the group who oversees it all. (See listing, page -6-.)

And then there is the archive! I truly always thought of it as a vague, bottomless pit of images, books, prints, maps, and even fine china! Now it is becoming less vague, but it remains bottomless. I’m grateful for a new board committee on Archives; for the time and talents of Paula DeMars, contract archivist; and for the help of the staff at the Minnesota Historical Society. This coming summer, one focus will be on Ober’s photography-- documentation that began with Ray Anderson’s help in the early 1980s. Jean Sanford Replinger followed with decades of leadership on this and the book care. We intend to keep learning, step by step and furthering the care and preservation of Ernest Oberholtzer’s collections.

Finally, let me tell you the story of the image on the front cover. We rang the bell around midnight, and island dwellers immediately assembled, scanning the northern horizon. One photographer, hoping that this might happen, had positioned his camera up on the eastern hill. And it’s thanks to that forethought that his shutter captured this swirl of light, which only lasted a few seconds. Now-- and isn’t this a little like an island legacy-- we can study that swirl of energy for a long time and be changed by its beauty.

Beth Waterhouse ~ Executive Director

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Accomplished by Everyone during 2017: (a very partial listing)

- ❖ Our endowment campaign crossed the milestone of 80% of pledges vs goal, during the month of November. That figure now sits at 84.4%.
- ❖ Paula DeMars was hired on contract as the organizational archivist and historian; she is currently supported by a Minnesota Cultural Heritage Legacy grant.
- ❖ The storage area was moved from St. Cloud to Minneapolis, and with that move, many items of historical significance were pulled together for the first time.
- ❖ Three “slow-no-wake” buoys were purchased and carefully installed in locations to the east of Crow and Gull and to the west of Crow and Fawn Islands.
- ❖ Ellie Kingsbury presented a beautiful exhibit of her “Vanitas” photography in May.
- ❖ Don Jones visited the island several times, and each time brought ceremony and cultural teachings to visitors on Mallard. Thanks, Don!
- ❖ A beautiful donation of century-old Ojibwe beadwork was received and re-donated to a new home at Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation reserve north of Fort Frances, ON.
- ❖ The board declared 2018 to be a “Year of Reflection and Renewal.”

A Word from Board President, Peggy Anne Smith

(Miskwaanakwadook—Red Cloud Woman)



I am honoured to accept the appointment of President of the Ernest Oberholtzer Foundation as of January 2018. A big thank you to Jim Fitzpatrick, outgoing President, for his years of service.

I have spent a gardening work week on Mallard Island every year for the past 25 years. I have observed and been part of the stewardship of Gull, Hawk, Mallard and Crow Islands. As a member of the Board of Directors since 2015, I have seen the Board refine its governance by developing and implementing a strategic plan. That planning process brought us back in touch with all parts of Ober’s legacy. We revised our mission by revisiting Ober’s wishes for how his work would continue. We are committed *“to maintain Ober’s legacy and North Woods island home as a source of inspiration, renewal and connection to Indigenous Peoples, kindred spirits and the natural world.”* We hope that everyone who has visited Mallard, attended Foundation functions, or has a history with Ober himself is touched by his legacy and moved, in some small way, to carry it on.

It is a privilege to be among such a strong, committed and skilled group of Board members. Sadly Elaine Thrune’s term expired this year. She provided sound leadership as both a member and past president. We also miss Jim Davis, Robin Monahan, Jean Replinger, Harry Sweatt, and Mary Swalla Holmes whose terms expired in 2016. However, Boards go through a process of keeping fresh energy flowing by limiting the terms of their members and we are lucky to have Bob Norbie and Mark Granlund join us in 2016 and George Glazier (grandson to Gene Ritchie Monahan) and Denise Lajimodiere in 2017, plus soon Bill Forsyth in 2018. Hardest to accept was losing Tim Heinle, our beloved Treasurer, who died on September 13, 2017.

~ Peggy Anne Smith (continued on page six)

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**Statement of Operating Revenue and Expenses – Unaudited
Ernest C. Oberholtzer Foundation - for Calendar Year 2017**

REVENUE (rounded to nearest dollar)	<u>% of total</u>	
Revenue from Previous Funding Campaigns (spent this year)	3,572	3%
Grants from Foundations	10,600	9%
Dividends and Interest from Investments	14,534	12%
Revenue from Oil & Gas Royalties (and leases)	49,000	41%
Donations from Individuals this year	20,046	17%
Program Fees for Island Use during 2017	19,138	16%
Sales of photos and books	1,400	1%
Misc Revenue / Honoraria	<u>726</u>	1%
Total for Year.....	\$ 119,016	

EXPENSES (rounded to nearest dollar)		
Staff Salary / Wages and benefits (three staff)	48,906	
Island Utilities / Organizational Storage	2,183	
Administration and Fundraising (Insurance, taxes here)	15,795	
Board Meeting Expenses and Travel	11,326	
Outreach and Education (newsletter costs here)	3,271	
Archives and Collections Management (w/archivist contract)	4,528	
Direct Summer Program Expenses (incl ceremony)	7,385	
Capital Improvements & Repairs (Bird House roof)	2,146	
Forestry Tasks (expenses here, volunteer labor)	1,426	
Equipment Replacement (buoys here)	2,753	
Book and Archival Projects supporting the Legacy	230	
Contingency / Gifts	<u>1,369</u>	
Total Expenses.....	\$ 101,318	
Transfer to emergency fund*.....	<u>5,000</u>	
Total for Year.....	\$ 106,318	
Excess, This Year	12,698	

Our year was improved financially by extra lease income on the mineral acreage, held by Oberholtzer and bequeathed to the Foundation. This figure varies greatly each year./ Foundation salaries supported one person at 60% time plus 2 summer staff people working 4 weeks ea., and fr Sept-Dec we also supported an archivist.

* Note: Each year, the board designates \$5,000 to a self-insurance/emergency fund. The total by year-end 2017 in that fund, co-mingled in our investments, was \$60,000. ~ Revenue exceeded expenses this year, and we were able to reinvest some of the oil royalty income and dividends into long-term savings.

Portfolio of Investments—held with Raymond James & Assoc., Chicago, Illinois

With the guidance of Ms. Rosa Ebling at Raymond James & Assoc, Chicago, the Foundation manages a diverse portfolio of investments. Total investments as of 12-31-17 were valued at \$920,158 (increase of 23% in value this year). We benefit from \$332,203 in donor-designated endowment gifts as of year end. Special thanks are extended to Rebecca Wallenfelz and Antoinette Hickey of Chapman & Cutler LLP, Chicago, for their assistance with legal and tax compliance over many years. We could not accomplish all that we do without our friends in Chicago.

Recognition of Volunteers in 2017

Work Week Volunteers

Jane Lund
Don Maronde
Doug Kelley
Craig Fernholz
Joel Kroenke
Jennie Ross
Sherry Rovig
Michael Reid
Nance Kunkel
Barb and Tom Balcom
Peggy Anne Smith
Mary Alice Smith
Vickie Heggen
Jeff Ryan

Archives Week Volunteers

Sue Carver
Edie Meissner
Kristen Eide Tollefson
Ted Tollefson
Jerry Cox
Laura Kelly
Judith Niemi
Gordon Paquette
Alice and David Duggan

Special Thanks to our Newsletter Layout Editor,

Nance Kunkel

Mallard Island Caretakers during 2017

Mairi Doerr (*)
Prudence Johnson (*)
Mark Granlund
Barb Draper
Paula DeMars

Diane Tessari
Jennie Ross
Don Maronde
Mary Swalla Holmes
Daniel Laurence Andersen
Danielle Sosin
Judy Blais
(*) summer program directors

Steadfast Island Opener and Closer Volunteers

Pam and Darrell Rundell
& the Rundell family
David & Nancy Markwardt

Incoming Caretaker Trained this Summer

Barb Draper

Special Thanks to 2017 Forestry Volunteers and Clean-up on Hawk

Elaine and Steve Thrune
Tim and Mandy Youngquist
Kevin and Amber Wagner

In the Autumn of 2017, We Received the Gift of a Garage in Ranier, MN

With the help of her sister, Phyllis Callaghan, and with the assistance of then-Treasurer, Tim Heinle, Helen Mudge Heller made the decision, in September, to donate a garage and its contents to the Oberholtzer Foundation. This structure had been in her family and used for wintertime storage.

This donation, in fact, includes a 1972 Crestliner boat, motor and trailer, a 1982 Century boat, cover and trailer, and a 1982 GMC van. It is likely that the Foundation will be selling the boats and van this spring.

We are grateful to Helen Heller and her family for making the decision to donate this property, garage and contents. We are also grateful to Randy Pozniak, who has been a caretaker for that property for many years.

~ ~ ~

Our Office Moved: Excelsior to Edina, MN

Since mid-April 2017, Beth Waterhouse and Don Maronde have a new home location. Therefore, the home office address is: 4370 Brookside Court, #205, Edina, Minnesota 55436. The forwarding order on this address will soon expire. All phone numbers and email contact information remains the same as in prior years.



Ernest C. Oberholtzer Foundation Board of Directors: (current in Apr. 2018)

- Jim Fitzpatrick Hastings, Minnesota
- Bill Forsyth Minneapolis, Minnesota
- George Glazier Devens, Massachusetts
- Mark Granlund St. Paul, Minnesota
- Bob Hilke International Falls, Minnesota
- Pebaamibines (Dennis) Jones Minneapolis, MN and Ontario
- Charles A. Kelly Tucson, AZ and Ranier, MN
- Denise Lajimodiere Moorhead, MN and Belcourt, ND
- Bob Norbie Great Falls, Montana
- Michael Reid St. Paul, Minnesota
- Margaret (Peggy) Anne Smith Thunder Bay, Ontario
- Diane Crawford Tessari Excelsior, Minnesota

President's Letter, *continued from page three*

Words can't express how much Tim Heinle will be missed. He was the rock that made our ongoing Endowment campaign so successful. We're still not quite at our goal, so we hope you will help by donating. See the insert in this report regarding the Endowment campaign.

The Board has declared 2018 a *Year of Renewal*. It is a time for reflection, ceremony and a constructively critical eye. We hope you will join us in providing direction for renewal by filling out our survey (coming to you soon via email) and, if you visit the Island this summer, leaving your thoughts in our Renewal Journal. Remember to regularly visit our Facebook site (Mallard Island in Rainy Lake) and our website at www.eober.org.

~ Peggy Anne Smith

Timothy Mudge Heinle

1939 to 2017

Tim first attended Camp Koochiching on Rainy Lake at the age of 12. Within a decade, he and several friends canoed into the far north, and Tim always spoke of that trip as a life-changing adventure.

Tim joined the Ernest Oberholtzer Foundation board of directors in 2004, and from his seat as Treasurer, he was a life-changing force for us-- as an organization and for many of us as individuals. Tim built community around himself everywhere he went, and he seldom stood still. We are grateful for his many years with us, for his energy and imagination, and for his spirit of acceptance. We keep his name alive, and we will tell and re-tell his stories for years to come.



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2017 Operating Fund Donors Listed Here:

Richard Adams
Michael L. Anderson
Edie Barrett
Carol and Lynn Belanger
Henrietta Blaha
Judy Blais
David Brunkow
Lucy W. Bruntjen
Richard T. Burke
Dale & Phyllis Callaghan
Camping & Education Foundation
Reid Carron
Susan Carver
Ann Cathcart
James Chalfant
Claudia Christiansen
Joanne Church
Lee Coleman
Joseph Conrad
Mya Coursey
Lynn & Jerry Cox
Chapman & Cutler LLP, in-kind
Elizabeth J. Cregan
James C. Davis
Thomas Dean
Tom Deupree
Tom and Tami Dougherty
TrudyJo Dunn
Barbara & Laverne Dunsmore
Rosa M. Ebling
James & Janet Edlund
Bruce & Marlene Ehresman
Katherine Eisele
Lawrence and Nancy Eisinger
Charlene Erickson
Sherry & Doug Evans
Burdette & Sandra Faehn
Marva and Timothy Fairchild
Diane Dinndorf Friebe
Karen Ganter
Mary or William Genell
Tim and Lisa Gerlach
Bill and Ashley Germain
George P. Glazier
John and Toni Grate
Mary Graves
John R. Gregg
Carol and Carl Haag
Christopher Hale
Judith Hall
Nelda Hart
Tim & Joan Heinle
Helen Heller
Ruth Herberg
Jack and Mary Hickerson
Bob Hilke
Ron and Georgia Hilke
Bill Huenefeld
Craig and Mona (Bunnie) Hunter
Elizabeth Hutchins

Harold Hytrek
Philip Jemielita
David Jensen
Cedar Jimenez
Kathleen Johnsen
Alicia Johnson
Byrne and Carole Johnson
Larry & Janis Johnson
Campbell & John Jolly
Dennis Jones
Kathryn Jones
Mary E. Juers
Larry & Jo Kallemeyn
Jennifer Kellen
Charles A. Kelly
Terry and Dean Kennedy
Athena Kildegaard
Ellie Kingsbury
Mick and Iverne Kuryla
Ross Kyllo
Barbara LaValeur
Maxine Long
Becky Lucas
Carolyn Mann
Carol B. Marshall
Barbara Mattson
Jennifer McCann
H.G. McNeely, Jr.
Gladys Meade
Edith Meissner
Ward & Linda Merrill
Cory Miggins
Robin Monahan
Robert and Ancy Morse
Dale and Janice Mulfinger
Carolyn Munson-Benson
Lynn Naeckel
Richard Niemi
Bob and Mary Lou Norbie
Dean and Jeri Nordaune
Laurie Oberholtzer
Darlene Olsen
Richard Paper
Thomas J. Paper
Beverly Pelland
Ron and Wanda Pelland
Barbara T. Pinto
Mary Kay Plank
Richard Pohl
Randy Pozniak
Melinda Quivik
Leslie Rapp
Debra Reeve
Michael & Anne Reid
James Robertson
Audrey Roche
David Rolloff
Rebecca Rom
J. Arlene Ronda
Sandra Rufer
Patricia Salwei
Catherine Sandell
Kent Scheer
LaVonne Schildt

Julia Schmitt
Tim and Marsha Shuff
David Simmons
George & Ruth Simmons
Steve Robert Simmons
Wallace & Rose Simpson
Tony Singh
G. Barton Sleper
Peggy Anne Smith
Ruth K. Solie
Miriam Sommerness
Gloria Stapp
Sam and Cindy Stenson
Miranda Stone
Duncan Storlie
Barton E. Sutter
Janice Templin
Diane Crawford Tessari
Michelle Thelen
Judy E. Thompson
Elaine & Steve Thrune
Jackie Thureson
Daniel Tiffany
David Trompeter
Jack and Katie Valentine
Jean Velleu
James F. Voegeli
Judy and Larry Walker
Ann Marie Waterhouse
Beth Waterhouse
Andrea Wicks
Michael & Mary Williams
LeRoy Winkel
Mary Wolszon
Andrew & Georgeann Wright
Maralee Thomson Yood
Carol Zapfel

*Endowment Pledgers are listed on
the insert to this report.*

Foundation Gifts:

Athwin Foundation
Community Fndtn of the Ozarks
Head Family Foundation
Quetico Superior Foundation
Winter Wheat Foundation

Gifts in Honor or In Memory of...

* Timothy M. Heinle
* Larry & Elizabeth Doyle
* Bob and Elaine Waterhouse
* Henry and Katherine Doerr
* Dr. Mary Ghostley
* Phillip Dacey and Leo Dangel
* Jim Cowgill
* Melinda Larsen
* Sharon Henneman
* Janet Pearson
* Jean Sanford Replinger