HISTORIC PRESERVATION
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

LOVE IT AND LIST IT
In the Local Historic District Ordinance 37A for protection. Save our history!

LOVE IT AND LIST IT....

In the Local Historic District Ordinance 37A for protection!

Starring your HDC:
David Phillips, Chairman
Gene Ferrera, Vice-chair
John Sanderson, Secretary
Ron Bargy, Bruce Parkinson
Bob Bowen, Don Westphal

Preserving our Township historic landscapes!
In town 4 north, of range 11 east, called Oakland, Benjamin Woodworth and William Russell made the first purchase. On the 16th of March, 1819, they purchased a part of section 33. The history of Father Russell, as he was familiarly called, is truth itself, candid and unassuming. He was an example of sociality and benevolence, upright and just in all his ways. Benjamin Woodworth—"Uncle Ben," as he was known to all who ever stopped at the Steamboat Hotel in Detroit—had a heart full of kindness and a hand ever ready to help the distressed. He was the constant friend of Oakland, and he never forgave or forsook her early inhabitants. In 1824 James Coleman and James Hazzard purchased. In 1825 Benedict Baldwin, Horace Lathrop, James D. Galloway, J. Dewey, Samuel Hilton, Ezra Newman, David Hammond and Needham Hemmingway purchased, and were among the early settlers.

Michigan State Historical Marker for the Paint Creek Cider Mill.
Did you take the doughnut challenge on our 200 year birthday—March 16 2019?
Historic Marker Program is offered by the Historic District Commission and designed to promote preservation and pride in the ownership of historic resources in Oakland Township.

Historic District Commission

Local Historic District

1855
Paint Creek United Methodist Church

Inspired by Rev. John Russell, who became a leader of the Prohibition Party, St. John’s Methodist Church was created in 1855 at the corner of Buell and Rochester Roads. In 1887 the church was dismantled and moved by horse team to its current location in Goodison.

1880
Bromley-Parker Barn

This three bay, gambrel roof, centennial barn is of post and beam construction featuring hand hewn timber. First land patent issued in 1836 to the Bromley’s later purchased by the Parker’s in 1880.

1840
Hadden House

Greek Revival farmhouse in Cole Major-Carpenter Historic District. Elizabeth Cole Hadden purchased adjacent parcels. Hadden Road was named for Hadden farmhouses. Oliver Pay Carpenter owned over 60 years. Bruce Parkinson purchased in 1986 continuing the farming history.

1891
Church Parsonage

American Four-Square architecture with Italianate window brackets. Reverend Diamond, the first minister of the Paint Creek United Methodist Church in Goodison, had this parsonage built for a cost of $800. He helped with the building construction, design, and interior finishing.

1901
The Old Stone House

Cranberry Lake Farm is open for your enjoyment, relaxation, and exercise. Walk the grounds and see the history on display with old implements, stone barbeques, picnic areas, and scenic surroundings. Located at 388 West Predmore Road in northern Oakland Township. The sixteen acre historic district is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and represents a rural farmsteads evolution into a recreational retreat.

Located at 388 West Predmore Road in Oakland Township, the farm includes nine restored buildings and barns as well as 16-acres of beautiful grounds and vistas to enjoy. Parks are gathering places for communities as they provide a place to relax, play, exercise, and learn. And some even protect our history.

What’s the history behind Cranberry Lake Farm?
Starting in 1837, Cranberry Lake Farm was home to several local families, including the Kline family who operated the farm for 78-years. In the 1930s, people living near Detroit often used Oakland Township, and other surrounding rural communities, as their escape from the bustling city. Prominent businessman and United States Congressman, Howard A. Coffin and his wife, Abbie, followed suit by purchasing Cranberry Lake Farm in 1939 as their recreational country retreat. Wild game brooders were used to raise hunting birds for sport and the Reflection pond viewshed delivered leisure and relaxation. Today, Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District welcomes you to enjoy the grounds just as the Kline’s and Coffins did.
These improvements have been funded by a voter approved Historic District operating millage funds for historic preservation.
Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District was owned by John Axford in the 1840s and later purchased by Howard A. Coffin, about 100-years later. To find out more about all the Michigan Historical Markers visit https://www2.dnr.state.mi.us/HistoricalMarkers/

Always Scenic to photograph, the farm's stonewall Reflection Pond provides tranquil resting and wonderful views from the porch. Current restoration of this landscape is underway 2020-2021.
Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District

How was Cranberry Lake Farm acquired and how is it funded?
The Oakland Township Parks Dept. (PRC) was fortunate to acquire the large acreage property with all the buildings in 1996. A 16-acre historic district was designated from the 213 acre Cranberry Lake Park. The historic district is primarily funded with the Oakland Township Historic District Operating Millage and overseen by the Historic District Commission (HDC). The Oakland Township Historical Society (OTHS) members became involved with the farmstead when they collaborated to save all the historic structures, they also collect local archives and have a museum in the Caretaker house.

The HDC works in partnership with Oakland Township Historical Society for the preservation of the site, and develops the context for creating a community historical center for public enjoyment and education. The Historic District operating millage has been supported by residents in 1996, 2002, and 2012. Renewal for 2022 will be on the November 3, 2020 General Election, for the purpose of continuing to fund historic preservation, education, restoration, acquisition, and maintenance within Oakland Township. As part of this purpose, the millage includes funding for the development and maintenance of Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District for .1096 levy or $10.96 per year on a taxable home value of $100,000.

What can you do at Cranberry Lake Farm today?
Today, the farmstead continues to grow its offerings to the public with historical and agricultural programs, recreational activities, private rentals, photography, concerts, and much more. While Cranberry Lake Farm is a historic site, it is also a place for the community to go for a walk, have a picnic, attend programs and learn about history—of course! The park is open dusk to dawn for use of trails and just enjoying the historic context of the site. The PRC, HDC, and OTHS offer a variety of great programs throughout the year. OTHS has collected many antiques on display and collects archives about local history housed in the main house. While the HDC manages the daily operations, private rentals, maintenance, capital improvement and restoration projects, they also hold educational programs and events that teach us about our heritage. The HDC has recently restored the apple orchard, oak fencing, added picnic table seating, and constructed a permanent outhouse. The next projects the HDC is working with a landscape architect to develop garden areas, pollinator gardens, and restored vistas. They are also in the beginning stages of researching a children’s themed garden around one of the tenants that lived at the farm in 1948—The Story Lady (more to come about her!).
Addison Oaks Trail Riders donated and installed our first hitching posts, returned to the farming days from early farming families. There is much history of horses at the farm.

Cranberry Lake Farm Outhouse improvements in 2017 which completed the Township’s first permanent vault restroom, and also environmentally friendly!

Before……. and After picture!

Pictured at Right: Chairman Dave Phillips, HDC Commissioner John Sanderson, OTHS Dr. Tom Asmus, HDC Commissioner Bob Bowen. Not pictured from Historic District Commission: Gene Ferrera, Ron Bargy, Don Westphal, and Bruce Parkinson.

Addison Oaks Trail Riders donated and installed our first hitching posts, returned to the farming days from early farming families. There is much history of horses at the farm.
What’s new in 2021? The HDC has applied for a Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund grant for Accessible Pathway Development at Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District to allow access to the Hen House for programs. (yellow pathway)
Thank you Boy Scout Troop 60 for helping us with the care and weeding of our apple orchard this June. Our March workshop on the care, maintenance, and pruning of fruit trees was cancelled. Please watch for the early spring 2021 orchard workshop so you can learn how to care for your own fruit trees.

The Apple Orchard contains eleven very old trees—close to 80 years old! The HDC added 25 trees to replace lost trees with a variety of 1800s through 1940s: Courtland, Red Delicious, Granny Smith, McIntosh, Johnathon, Empire, Mutsu, and Honey Gold. Apple blossom is the state flower of Michigan. There are 2,500 varieties of apples grown in the US with Michigan being the 3rd largest producer.

Tips:
Try growing a dwarf apple tree in your own backyard!
Thank you to Suzanne and Terry (Chamberlin) Nowels family for the donation of the Chamberlin carriage for display at Cranberry Lake Farm! The carriage came from the Centennial Farm on Rush Road where Abram Axford began farming 320-acres in 1849. His great grand-daughter was Julia Chamberlin, who was Grant Chamberlin’s mother. The carriage was pulled by one horse to travel to Mt. Clemens for groceries. The Chamberlin family farmed corn and wheat, raised livestock, mostly cattle, and had both apple orchard and peach trees. The farmstead remained in the family for 168 years before selling.

Huge thank-you to Goodison Cider Mill owner Bob Steinheiser who donated the orchard sprayer to be displayed at Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District. Also thanks to Mike Comps for his donation of the Briggs and Stratton Model B Type: 30040 2-3/4 HP Gas Engine, with the help of Historic District Commissioner’s Don Westphal, John Sanderson, and Chairman David A. Phillips. Orchard sprayers were a benefit to farmers to provide pressurized spraying of pesticides to protect trees and plants from insects. The apple orchard at the farm is about 78-years old. It was very common in the first half of the 20th century for farming populations to have diverse fruit farms called “kitchen orchards” which produced enough harvest for the extended family. Apple juice became highly sought after for health benefits. Please enjoy an apple when you stop out to the farm!
Do you see what I see? Coming Spring 2021—
Hammock Escape at the Sugar Maple Row! We should be able to hang four to five hammocks and swings for your enjoyment and relaxation. Come out to read a book. Picnic area at the Barbeque on the east end of the historic district.
What’s going on at Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District?

Croquet anyone? Look for dates in 2021 as we set up five playing fields and we play to live music! Plein Air painters have workshops throughout the summer months.

We celebrated our new clothesline with the history of aprons blowing in the wind!

Banjos and more banjos with Just Banjos, The Silver Tops, and Harmonica George at the Down on the Farm event. We have also heard the wonderful tunes from The Ruffwater Stringband for square dancing!

Please follow us on Facebook @CLFdistrict for more information and also http://bit.ly.OTHDC
DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN HAVE A WEDDING CEREMONY AT CRANBERRY LAKE FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT?

Congratulations to the happy couples! This way to the ‘I do’s’ 😊 CLF
APPRECIATION - ap·pre·ci·a·tion; Recognition and enjoyment of the good qualities of someone or something.

Progress for success takes many hands and much resources. The HDC would not be able to accomplish so much without the volunteer efforts by the Oakland Township Historical Society members. They are our partners, tenants, friends in promoting Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District to the residents as a community historical center.

DO NOT LET THE GRASS GROW LONG IN THE PATHS BETWEEN OUR FRIENDSHIPS.  

American Indian Proverb

The Oakland Township Historic District Commission