

# The Preservationist

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The Member Newsletter of the Elkhart Lake Historic Race Circuits Preservation Society  
Volume 4

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## Highway Department Contracts Preservation and Maintenance Plan

In a letter dated May 19, 2008, Chip Brown, Preservation Officer for the Wisconsin Historical Society proposed as after-the-fact mitigations for the Sheboygan County Highway Departments illegal destruction of the banks in the Hamill's Hollow portion of CTH A that the County contract with an architectural historian to prepare a Preservation and Maintenance Master Plan for the historic race circuits.

HRC has recently been advised that the Highway Department has contracted with Heritage Research, Ltd. for preparation of the proposed Preservation and Maintenance Plan. Heritage Research, Ltd., has been in business twenty-two years and much of their business has focused on working with clients needing to consider various historical issues as part of the environmental documentation required for transportation projects. The principle on the project is Traci Schnell (no relation or connection to Highway Commissioner Greg Schnell). Traci earned her Master's Degree at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 1995 and has been employed as an architectural historian by Heritage for the past nine years. She is well respected in her field and highly thought of by the Wisconsin Historical Society.

Heritage is currently attempting to determine if a Preservation and Maintenance Plan exists for any historical properties comprised all or in part of public roads, including the Watkins Glen Historic Circuit, from which precedents can be established. HRC has spoken with Ms. Schnell and offered to assist in any way possible. We are confident that Heritage will be totally objective in preparation of the proposed plan and remain optimistic that the

Highway Department will embrace the plan and quickly resume maintenance of the roads that make up the Historic Circuits

## Society Holds First Founding Member Organizing Meeting

The Preservation Society held its first Organizing Meeting on Wednesday, July 16<sup>th</sup> at Siebkens. The meeting was attended by sixty-eight Founding Members and their guests. From 6pm to 7pm attendees enjoyed comradeship and conviviality around a cash bar followed by a steak dinner served up in classic Siebkens fashion. Following dinner HRC President, Tom Hollfelder, serving as master of ceremonies, began the evening's program by recognizing Sustaining and Supporting Members in attendance. Special thanks went to Sustaining Members Tom Grunnah and Alan Balte' and Supporting Members, Kevin Rogers, Tim Kemmis and Mike Wolf. The program featuring historical photos and filmed footage for the 1950 and 1952 races but the hit of the program was a computer enhanced tour of the circuit at near full race speed filmed by an unidentified driver and filmed by an unknown camera man. The program concluded with an update on the current state of preservation activities and a request that Society Members write or email county officials to let them know that there is a large group of citizens to whom preservation of the Historic Circuits is important. Fourteen new members enrolled in the Society at the meeting.

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The next Society meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, August 18<sup>th</sup> concurrent with the VSCDA vintage race weekend. Watch for a detailed announcement on the web site [www.historicracecircuits.com](http://www.historicracecircuits.com).