

1969

The Chippewa County Historical Society was established to ensure that Chippewa County's rich and colorful history wouldn't be forgotten.

1980

The Chippewa County Genealogical Society was established to gather and preserve local family histories and historical documents.

1990

The two societies moved into the former convent building of Notre Dame Catholic Church, 123 Allen St, Chippewa Falls, WI.

2006

Experiencing increases in attendance and needing an improved environment for an expanding artifact collection, the societies began to explore options for a building that could provide improved accessibility, a more stable environment for historic artifacts, and a more visible location.

2015

An ideal location next to Irvine Park was purchased for the proposed History Center.

2016

With an excellent location secured for the new museum, the planning process began in earnest. A Capital Campaign Executive Committee was formed and regular meetings held.

2017

The Capital Campaign began.

New CHIPPEWA AREA HISTORY CENTER

**Local History
Preservation and Education**

Chippewa Area History Center



715-723-4399

www.ChippewaAreaHistoryCenter.org
chippewaareahistorycenter@gmail.com

- Interactive Museum
- Classrooms/Auditorium
- Photo Archives
- Family History Library

www.ChippewaAreaHistoryCenter.org

Why is a new Chippewa Area History Center needed?

The communities throughout Chippewa County have a rich and fascinating history, beginning with the Native Americans, fur traders and European immigrants, to current citizens. It is the responsibility of each generation to preserve the history of previous generations and to provide an adequate facility to display historical items to educate future generations.

There is already a History Center on the East Hill of Chippewa Falls. Why do we need a new building?

The current History Center was built as a convent in 1883 with an addition made in 1915. It is a four-story, 10,000 square foot building, with many small rooms, steep and narrow stairs, and no elevator. There is not consistent temperature and humidity control needed to protect against deterioration of artifacts. The present location and facilities are not conducive to attracting visitors. The new History Center will be a 19,000 square foot building, specifically designed to correct these limitations. It will be built next to the entrance of Irvine Park, an excellent location!

Will the History Center be a self-sustaining non-profit entity, or will continual major donations be needed to keep it solvent?

The income vs. expenses analysis indicates the History Center will be self-sustaining. Continued emphasis will be placed on passionate community volunteers operating the History Center, under the guidance of a paid History Center Manager. The current 400 dues-paying membership of the Chippewa County Historical Society and the Chippewa County Genealogical Society is expected to grow. Approximately \$500,000 has been donated to the Community Foundation of Chippewa County, establishing permanently-endowed funds to support operations of the History Center. The new premier location will generate increases in attendance and revenue. The Capital Campaign is being conducted entirely by volunteers.

Will exhibits and History Center events be attractive and interesting for children and adults of all ages?

Yes! There will be a variety of exhibits and educational events. These will include permanent exhibits, rotating and traveling exhibits, and interactive/multimedia exhibits. All will showcase the history of Chippewa County using the extensive collection of artifacts, documents, and photos in its collection. Some history teachers from Chippewa County are on the Campaign Committee; they are very enthusiastic about helping to develop programs and class field trips for students throughout Chippewa County.

What are the projected building costs and Capital Campaign goal?

The current estimated cost is approximately \$3,500,000, the Capital Campaign goal. Donors may make multi-year pledges up to three years. It is intended that no long-term debt be incurred to complete this project.

What are the next steps?

- Projected construction begins: Fall of 2020 **or when 80% of campaign goal is reached**
- Projected construction completed: Fall of 2021
- Projected Grand Opening: Spring of 2022

For more information, please see the contact information below.

The Chippewa County Historical Society: phone 715.723.4399 email: cchs123@att.net
The Chippewa County Genealogical Society: phone 715.723.4399 email: ccgswi@gmail.com
Chippewa Area History Center website: www.ChippewaAreaHistoryCenter.org

Chippewa Area History Center



Thank you for supporting preservation and education.

The Campaign Executive Committee has been meeting with community leaders and potential donors to discuss the feasibility of the Chippewa Area History Center Capital Campaign. Support has been positive, with community members recognizing the valuable resource that will be provided for students, residents, and visitors to Chippewa County.

GIFTS AND PLEDGES CAN BE MADE THROUGH THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, BY MAIL OR ONLINE.

In Person

Community Foundation of Chippewa County
404 ½ N. Bridge Street
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

By Mail

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C/O Community Foundation of Chippewa County
PO Box 153
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729-0153

Online

Visit our website for more information.
www.ChippewaAreaHistoryCenter.org