



Press Release

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Islander Tug Restored and Ready for Viewing

Sheboygan—The gill-net tug *Islander* has come ashore on South Pier to become a permanent part of the historic ambience of Sheboygan's waterfront. All are welcome to join the Sheboygan County Chamber of Commerce in celebrating the completion of the *Islander* Fish Tug Restoration project with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Friday, July 29 at 5:00 p.m.

Built in 1936 by Sturgeon Bay Boat Works, for many years the vessel plied the waters of Green Bay out of Washington Island. In 1977 the boat was purchased by Glen Seger, a third generation commercial fisherman, and became a fixture of the Sheboygan waterfront. Now restored with the help of community volunteers and in-kind donations, the *Islander* is a tribute to the commercial fishing industry and an enhancement to the South Pier atmosphere and Harbor Centre tourism district.

Restored and ready for viewing, a monitor installed in a window at the front of the vessel features a slide show of the *Islander* Fish Tug Restoration project. "Hundreds of volunteer man hours and thousands of dollars in donated supplies have made this project possible," said Eldon Burg, one of the project's leaders. "It's been a privilege to work with so many dedicated volunteers and businesses while transforming the *Islander* into a monument for the local commercial fishing industry. The project took years, and it's not often you find hard-working volunteers who are willing stay with one project for years."

The collaborative volunteer effort is supported by the Kiwanis Club of Greater Sheboygan, Glenn Seger and the Great Lakes Fish Company, the City of Sheboygan, Carpenters Local 731, Gary Spettel-Master Carpenter, Sheboygan Paint Company, Sheldon Carr & Site Manufacturing, Richardson Lumber Company, Menzer Glass, Kuehlmann Sheet Metal, Harbor Pointe Miniature Golf, AmeriCorps, Sheboygan Area School District and Sea Scout Ship GRIFFIN (5050).

"The dedication ceremony will introduce the *Islander* to the public," said Amy Wilson, Sheboygan's Tourism Director. "It's now a beautiful showcase vessel that enhances the backdrop of South Pier. It's also a wonderful way to pay tribute to generations of fishermen who have harvested Lake Michigan even during the most dangerous conditions."

The ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held on the South Pier walkway at the Harbor Pointe Miniature Golf Course on Friday, July 29 at 5:00 p.m. Following the ceremony is the start of the annual Miesfeld's Lakeshore Weekend to benefit Children's Hospital. Featuring food, music and family activities, the event will be held for the first time on South Pier. For more information about the *Islander* ribbon-cutting contact George Twohig at (920) 457-9491. For more information about Miesfeld's Lakeshore Weekend visit www.lakeshoreweekendsheboygan.com.

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