

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**WAWATAM AREA SENIOR CITIZENS**

Following two years of planning for a new Senior Citizens Center in Mackinaw City, the Mackinaw Seniors, under their new name of **Wawatam Area Senior Citizens, Inc.** are once again open for dinners and activities in the Lion Dan Russell Building, their original location at 205 Cedar Street since 1976.

In partnership with the Mackinaw City Lions Club and the Village of Mackinaw City serving as the organization's fiduciary agent, the three organizations have revitalized the Lions Club facility with fresh paint, roof repairs and carpentry work, and refurbished appliances and furnishings. Having recently received their 501(c)(3) IRS Determination as a tax exempt organization, the Wawatam Area Seniors are now qualified and already receiving the County senior millage funding allocated for the townships of Mackinaw, Wawatam, Bliss and Carp Lake to run the operations.

Lions Club President, Ron Gwilt, is quoted as saying "Helping the Mackinaw Seniors get back into the Lions Club Building has been our number one priority for the past year, and we want to do everything we can to make this work."

The Mackinaw Senior Group was originally founded in 1973 as a locally sponsored, self-sustaining club with a membership and dues structure. Their first meals were served in the Church of the Straits Fellowship Hall. They were the second organization, after the founding of the Friendship Center in Petoskey in 1967, to bring local and area Senior Citizens together for the purpose of promoting good health and long-lasting quality of life. They now intend to continue their original mission by providing an environment for camaraderie, social activities, nutritional meals, recreation and entertainment, and the building of supportive relationships.

Beginning Friday, May 1, meals will be served five days per week: on Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 5:30pm and on Sundays at 1:00pm. In addition to congregate meals, they will be offering Foot Care, Hearing, and Vision Screening Clinics; provide educational and entertaining programs for the seniors; and be in a position to purchase equipment through donations which will enhance a variety of programs held at the Center, such as video equipment, electronic games, etc. Meals will be offered to qualifying seniors, age 60 and above, for a suggested donation of \$3.00. Family members and guests are welcome for a fee of \$5.00. Grandchildren age eight and under can eat for \$2.00.

For more information about the organization and its services, call 231-436-5334.