



November 3, 2011

Dear Historical Society Colleague,

The first major dividend of our Endowment Fund became obvious as our trustees faced a critical and costly expense to maintain our aging buildings major masonry repairs, far beyond the reach of fund-raising and well outside the annual budget, were both necessary and imminent. Many members made special contributions, a CD that was specified for maintenance and repair was cashed in, and the Endowment provided additional, eligible funds-WITHOUT touching principle. In essence, this is a loan to critical expenses-a loan without fees or interest. It helps to protect our assets from further deterioration and allows these special invested funds to be replaced in a timely manner, over a period of time. You can be proud of your Bedford Historical Society Endowment and its use of these entrusted funds.

We are pleased to report that your BHS, under the able leadership of our Director, Janet Caldwell, and President Bob Schroeter, Sr., with able Volunteers have assembled the first pictorial history of Bedford and Bedford Township. This valuable resource is at the publishers now and will be available in 2012.

The Society offers a place for talented volunteers to serve the public with research, record keeping, and education. This year, we toured Bedford school students and provided special programs on the Underground Railroad and Bedford's role in the Civil War to Twinsburg City Schools. Scouts, daycare groups and seniors from assisted living benefitted with tours and presentations.

Needless to say, the Lyceums now conducted at both the Old Church on the Square, and on-the-road community venues were a key ingredient in our programming. These programs have increasingly larger audiences and provide a real bridge to our shared past. Special exhibits, including: "Firefighting in the Township", and "Dressed for Tea" featuring donations and artifacts generously loaned to the museum were very much appreciated by visitors. The "Old Ways School "were offered in the Spring and Fall with the generous support of our faculty and staff.

With the year's end approaching, and tax time near, estate planning to preserve assets and support the institutions we hold dear to us is increasingly more important. Dramatic changes to the tax code are being bandied about by candidates for office in 2012. The law favors donation and tax benefits now, before any "adjustments" to the system become law. We hope that the Bedford Historical Society Endowment Fund will a part of your philanthropy-however large or small. We are proud of our role in preserving our unique history, and hope that you share that pride.

Sincerely,