

SAUGATUCK DOUGLAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY members at an opening reception of one of the award winning exhibitions produced annually by Society volunteers.

## GATHERING TOGETHER





## CROSSING THE BRIDGE TOGETHER

One of the advantages of a small town is that the people interested in a specific program are easy to call together. A letter in the newspaper or sending notes home with school children, can garner enough interested people to insure continuation of the summer swimming lessons, to create a holiday parade, start a genealogy group or spearhead a movement to raise millions of dollars to purchase property north of the Oval Beach for a natural area.

An example of this history of "gathering" is the annual Labor Day Bridgewalk, a walk inspired by a similar event which takes place on the five mile long Mackinac Bridge which links Michigan's Upper and Lower Peninsulas. The Saugatuck-Douglas 600 feet Kalamazoo River bridgewalk occurs annually early Labor Day morning with as much pomp as can be mustered—led by Father Corey Stoppel, a bagpiper. The .19 kilometer (about 600 feet) length of the bridge, includes a stop for refreshment in mid-walk, and a certificate of completion issued to those who are able to go the entire distance.