

*A \$7,000 planning grant awarded that year allowed the design of the new Gallery to begin. A \$150,000 state Legacy Grant and two \$25,000 grants (from the JMN Gift Trust and the Depot Foundation) followed.*

*“The awards allowed the construction of a new gallery, artifact storage space and museum- quality HVAC equipment improvements,” explained Coombe. However, a construction-related disaster involving dust release, and a condensation event (April and December 2013) resulted in about \$50,000 worth of damages. But even after the remediation, twice-yearly fluctuations in gallery humidity levels continued to be a problem.*

*The Depot, along with 175 other buildings in Canal Park and downtown Duluth, get its heating from the Duluth Steam System, typically from October to May. The twice-yearly switch on or off is known as the “shoulder season,” and as the huge old building adjusts to the switch, humidity levels can be difficult to control.*

*“We must keep on top of stabilizing the humidity levels during those times,” said (Society Collections Manager Milissa) Brooks-Ojibway. “Standards require no more than a 2% fluctuation plus or minus in humidity levels, and no more than a 3% fluctuation in temperature.”*

*Maintaining those exacting levels involves working with supplemental heating coils in the air intake areas and eliminating any air transfer between the ceiling and attic space in the gallery and in the storage area behind it.*

*The Historic Union Depot Corporation (HUDC), Oneida Realty and the building owner (St. Louis County) are currently addressing the duct work, attic space and heating system that serve the Gallery and adjacent storage areas. Coombe noted Ken Buehler, HUDC executive director had been a champion in the current effort to fine-tune the system and once again open the gallery to the public.*

*“When these issues are addressed, and when we can safely display the art the Society has protected since the 1920’s, we will be thrilled to hold the Opening Celebration of the Ojibwe Gallery,” said (Society Executive Director JoAnne) Coombe.*

## **Permanent and Long-term Exhibits at the Depot**

While the Society is continually involved in the conception and creation of new and interesting exhibits, visitors continue to enjoy and learn from the old favorites, the Society’s permanent and long-term exhibits in the Depot. These include the Melheim