



## *Celebrate history on Mackinac Island*

History comes to life on Mackinac Island. Just look at Grand Hotel and the Wawashkamo Golf Club as proof.

Grand Hotel will celebrate its 125th birthday on July 10, 2012, with a grand party the weekend of July 13-15. Wawashkamo, founded in 1898 as Michigan's oldest continuously operated golf course, isn't as old as the hotel, but just like the grand daddy of America's summer hotels, it continues to age with grace and style.

The weekend celebration for the hotel will feature three days of special receptions, programs that highlight Grand Hotel's storied history, recreational activities, commemorative souvenirs and a performance by Labor Day Jazz Weekend favorite and world-renowned guitarist and singer John Pizzarelli. Five U.S. Presidents (Harry S. Truman, John F. Kennedy, Gerald R. Ford, George H. W. Bush, and Bill Clinton) have spent the night at Grand Hotel, rated one of the World's Top 500 Hotels by Travel & Leisure magazine.

"We plan to make our 125th birthday celebration a tribute to the many aspects of Grand Hotel that make it such a distinctive destination," said R.D. (Dan) Musser III, Grand Hotel President. "We are proud of the unique role Grand Hotel has played in the history of

Michigan. It first opened its doors just 50 years after Michigan achieved statehood and has played host to state and national leaders on a consistent basis ever since."

Outdoor activities scheduled on that Saturday will include golf, croquet and bocci tournaments. Playing The Jewel, the course next to the hotel, is one of the special treats of visiting the Island. The front nine plays short but scenic. The back nine, reached by a 20-minute horse-and-carriage ride, plays much longer and tougher through a wooded nine added in 1994.

Meanwhile, golf at Wawashkamo features a step back in time with a golf experience similar to the days when the hotel first opened in 1887, all under the direction of new general manager/head professional Chuck Olson.

Wawashkamo, designed by Alex Smith, a two-time U.S. Open winner from Carnoustie, Scotland, still features tiny tees and greens common to links built in the 19th century. Players can rent hickory clubs to play the course and use piles of sand, not tees, to tee off. Signs throughout the course explain early golf course architecture.

For more, visit [grandhotel.com](http://grandhotel.com) or [wawashkamo.com](http://wawashkamo.com).