

# IC Museum sets open house for new director

CASPIAN—The Iron County Museum will hold an open house on Wednesday, June 29, at 6:30 p.m. to introduce Ross Parcels, the museum's new director, to the public.

A receiving line will be held followed by a brief program.

Parcels is a former resident of Iron River and came to the area with his parents, Rev. Clayton Parcels and his wife, Marilyn, when his father became pastor of First Presbyterian Church.

He graduated from West Iron County High School in 1977 and continued his education at Alma College, graduating with a B.A. degree, majoring in history in 1981.

He continued his education at the University of Michigan, receiving an M.A. in history in 1990, and then attended Northern Michigan University where he received a second M.A. in English (with emphasis in writing) in 1994.

Later, Parcels attended the University of Illinois Graduate School of Library and Information Science, where he pursued his interests in reference librarianship, rare books and special collections and archives.

He graduated from Illinois in 2006 and received the school's Bryce Allen Award for Reference Service in 2007.

His research on Menominee's Company L, formerly a National

Guard Unit in World War I, led to the topic for his master's thesis on memory, history and the archives, and eventually to a book, entitled *Onward Through Hell*.

It was a logical move for him to go into business for himself when he opened Aurora Books, a bookshop in Menominee, with his spouse, Linda, a business they still own and operate.

He also taught at several institutions from 1991 to 1996, first as graduate teaching assistant at NMU followed by the position of adjunct instructor of English at Lake Superior State University, and as adjunct instructor of English at the University of Wisconsin, Marinette.

He also worked briefly as an archives technician for the National Archives at College Park.

This past year he served as the curator of the Heritage Museum in Menominee and was responsible for collections, displays, records and storage of historical artifacts, specimens and images.

In regard to selection for new position at the Iron County Museum, he commented, "I had dreamed that I would like to return and again live here in Iron County and I am grateful for the opportunity to do so."

The Museum Board is pleased that they could find a qualified director who is already knowledgeable about the community.

The board extends an invitation to residents and friends to attend the reception to welcome him.