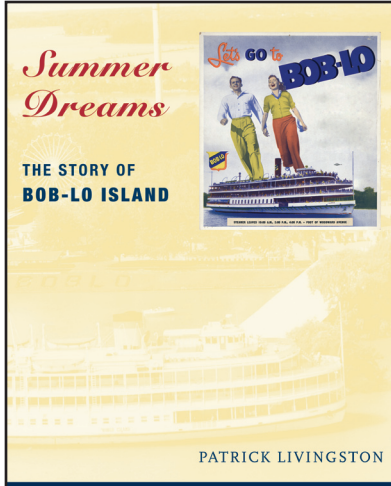




NEWS FROM WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS

For immediate release

Travel Back to Bob-lo Island with Summer Dreams



New from Wayne State University Press, *Summer Dreams: The Story of Bob-lo Island* is a complete history of Detroit's favorite summer destination by local writer and maritime expert Patrick Livingston. In its heyday, Bob-lo housed an amusement park with one of the world's largest dance halls, an elegant restaurant, and a hand-carved carousel. An iconic pair of Frank Kirby-designed ferry steamers—complete with dancing and other entertainment—transported patrons to and from the island, which was not accessible by car.

In *Summer Dreams*, author Patrick Livingston tells the whole story of Bob-lo (originally called Bois Blanc Island) from its discovery by French explorers to its subsequent use by missionaries, British military men, escaped slaves, farmers, and finally the wealthy class, who developed the island as a summer resort and eventually an amusement park. For nearly one hundred years, the park provided the perfect place for Detroiters to dance and play and simply escape the whirlwind of the city. Livingston notes, however, that operation of Bob-lo presented special challenges to management teams over the course of the century, particularly in the running of its U.S.-based steamers and competition with modern amusement parks that could be reached by car.

BOOK INFORMATION:

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Great Lakes Books Series



Livingston also chronicles the island's recent history, including the turmoil leading up to its final closure in 1993, the auctioning of its steamers and rides, and its redevelopment as a community of multimillion-dollar homes.

With numerous illustrations and personal profiles added to its historical narrative, *Summer Dreams* visits all the phases of Bob-lo's history and demonstrates the island's importance to natives of Detroit, Windsor, and Amherstburg. Local historians and anyone with roots in Detroit and the Border Cities will enjoy this informative volume.

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