



*Beacon photo by Sally Girard*

## *Uncovering history*

Since last summer, waves have been revealing more and more of what is believed to be a sunken Great Lake schooner on the beach at Meinert County Park in White River Township.

# Sunken ship uncovered at Meinert Park beach

**BY SALLY GIRARD**

*Beacon staff writer*

Little by little, as each wave breaks, more and more of it becomes visible.

It looks like a big piece of wood, but on closer inspection it is clear it was once part of a Great Lakes schooner. The section of ship which is slowly coming uncovered at Meinert County Park in White River Township is approximately three feet wide and four feet long.

"It's pretty obvious it's the hull of a ship," said Dee Badgerow. She and her husband Gregg Smith are caretakers at the park. "Who knows how much of it is there."

The ship remains are located right at the water's edge at the end of a creek near the park's boardwalk. Badgerow said

visitors to the park began telling them about the sunken ship last summer.

"We thought they were nuts," she said, until more and more of it was revealed.

A piece of metal is visible on the wooden ship. Karen Dzieszinski, curator of the White River lighthouse said that means it was probably a lumber or grain schooner.

"It was probably buried and a storm brought it up," she said.

She said the ship most likely went down in a storm or ran aground in a storm. It would have "run aground" far out in the lake because the ships were so large.

Badgerow said she hopes professionals from somewhere like Grand Valley State University would consider coming to dig out the remainder of the ship.<