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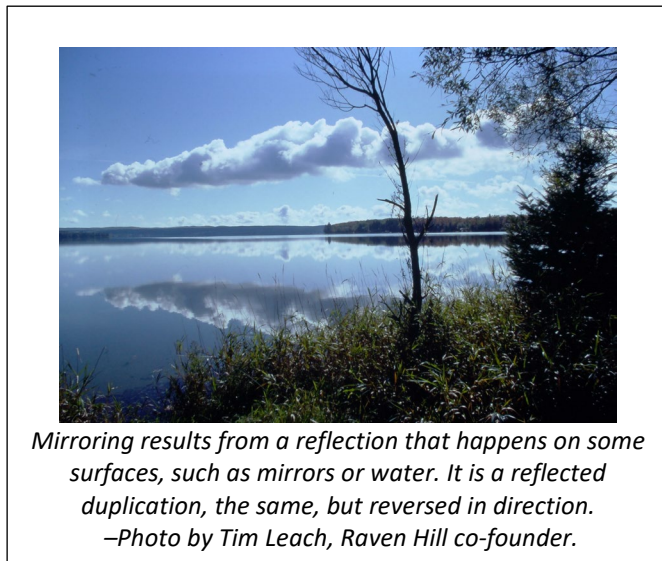
We are currently open noon to 4pm Saturdays & 2pm to 4pm Sundays | Open holidays & other times by appointment
Raven Hill Discovery Center, incorporated in 1991, is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation.

Mission: Raven Hill provides a place that enhances hands-on and lifelong learning for all ages by connecting science, history & the arts.

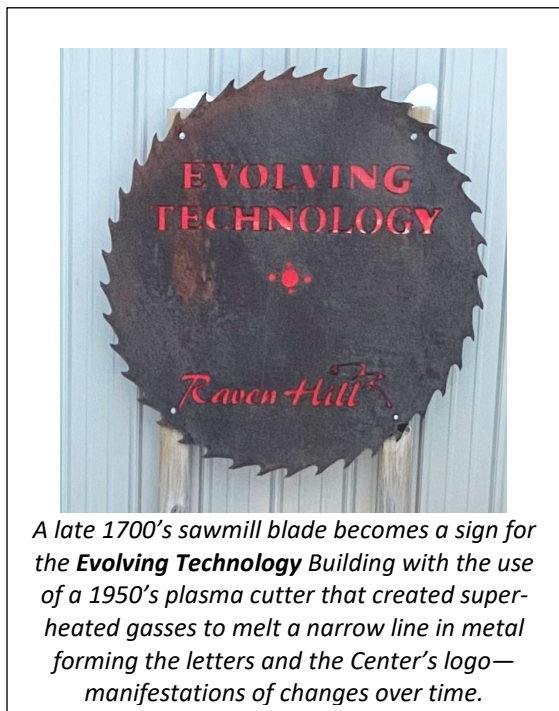
To: friends and family everywhere
From: Cheri and Raven Hill
Date: January 21, 2023
Re: *ET Reflections*

Greetings to all!

You may already be aware that the newest exhibit at Raven Hill is the **Evolving Technology Addition (ETA)**, which is located behind the existing Evolving Technology (ET) Building. Inside the ET Building, sixteen time periods feature the technology of daily life—cooking, cleaning, laundry, sewing, tools, toys & games, as well as the forms of communications used during each time period. Outside, the new **ETA** panels feature the technology of clothing, shelter, energy, transportation and roadways of those same 16 eras. These indoor and outdoor exhibits **mirror** the chronology from Information Age to Stone Age inside and from Stone Age to Information Age outside. The two timelines explore different aspects of the changes in technology over time, but the mirroring aspect of the layout is a part of the exhibit intrigues me.



*Mirroring results from a reflection that happens on some surfaces, such as mirrors or water. It is a reflected duplication, the same, but reversed in direction.
—Photo by Tim Leach, Raven Hill co-founder.*



*A late 1700's sawmill blade becomes a sign for the **Evolving Technology** Building with the use of a 1950's plasma cutter that created super-heated gasses to melt a narrow line in metal forming the letters and the Center's logo—manifestations of changes over time.*

Yesterday, as I **reflected** on times past and those yet to come at Raven Hill, I suddenly realized that there is a double meaning in our “mirrored” **Evolving Technology** exhibits. I often check the thesaurus or dictionary for definitions and synonyms to use in these updates. In this case, I checked out the word “mirror”, which quite naturally led to the word “reflection.” It was then that I had an epiphany! The first definition of reflection speaks to that scientific mirroring that happens in a looking glass or on still water. I often mention this layout of the **ET** exhibits to our guests. But, upon reading a second definition of reflection, I suddenly realized that reflection is also the process of exploring and examining something, in this case, technology and that definition of reflection also applies to **Evolving Technology** displays just as precisely. The **ET** exhibits encourage visitors to reflect and consider past technology, gain new insights and contemplate how we might move forward with new technology. This kind of connected learning is what makes Raven Hill special for visitors. Thinking about the past is one of the best ways to prepare for the future.



Various forms of communications were used in the Stone Age, including cave paintings and smoke signals, as well as drums and rattles. You can communicate with the drums & rattles in the Hands-on Room!



Most of the Stone Age daily life artifacts were created specifically for Raven Hill's ET display.

In 2023, the **ET** displays will enhance the Smithsonian **Spark! Places of Innovation** exhibition that Raven Hill will host this summer. The **ET** timelines will also complement the **Youth Innovation in Rural America (YIRA)** program that is taking place in several local schools this winter. In partnership with Raven Hill and the **Cooper Hewett Smithsonian Design Museum**, **YIRA** will empower local youth to identify a challenge in their own community and then use the innovation design process to solve that challenge. Student projects illustrating their

innovative designs will be on display at Raven Hill before and during the **Spark!** exhibition from August to October.

Visitors will certainly have a lot to “reflect” on, when they visit Raven Hill this summer. My hope is that the **Evolving Technology** displays (both inside and outdoor aspects) will instill in visitors an enthusiasm for discovering the past and a curiosity for those things still unknown. However, none of this could happen at Raven Hill without major support from the community. That includes funding from the donors, who “make it happen”, because they believe in the Center’s mission of connecting science, history and the arts; the wonderful artists, who make an idea come to life and the volunteers, who donate their time and expertise to help the final exhibit come together. In this case, donors for the **Evolving Technology Addition** include the **Alden & Vada Dow Family Foundations** and the **Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation**. Kirby Snively of **Contempo-Rustic Furniture** built the base panels; **Kecia Freed** used her graphic design skills to pull together illustrations of clothing, shelter, energy, transportation & roadways from 16 eras creating a visual timeline and **Signs Letters & Graphics** supervised the printing of the panels. **Fastenal** of Gaylord donated the many brass fasteners that volunteers, **Dave & Dylan Clapp**, used to install the exhibit.

Come visit soon and explore both **Evolving Technology** exhibits. Regular weekend hours are noon to 4pm on Saturdays and 2pm to 4pm on Sundays. To make an appointment for other times, call 231.536.3369 or email cheri@miravenhill.org. Consider bringing your friends and relatives out to enjoy a fun afternoon of discovery and exploration this winter!

We look forward to seeing you at Raven Hill,

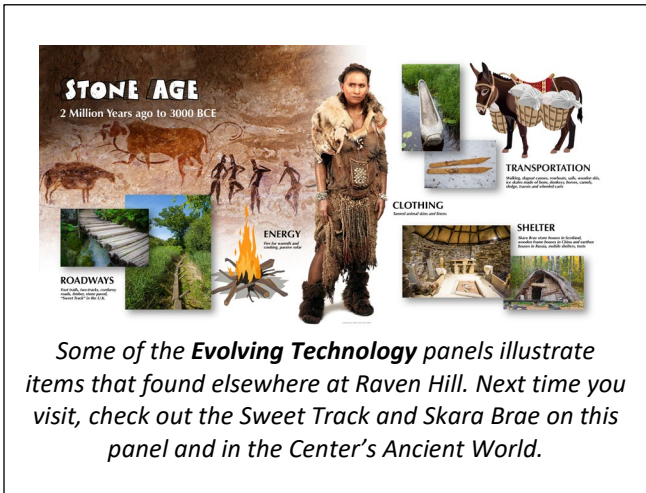
Cheri



Even these modern artifacts are out of date, since technology changes so fast in today's world. Can you see any types of communication that you use or used?!



Artifacts in the Information and Space Age daily life panels look more familiar than those you find in the Stone Age.



The ET displays, both indoors and outside, are a fascinating exploration of "how we got to now".

