The ribbon cutting ceremony at the Baudette Depot was Friday, Oct. 21. Left to right are David Grabitske from the Minnesota Historical Society, Lynn Eaton from Minnesota Department of Transportation, Jeff Poolman from the depot board, Joanne Kellner of the depot board, Rick Rone from the City of Baudette, Ken Moorman from the Lake of the Woods County Board, Chris Treadwell from Anderson & Hammack construction company, and Bill Hickey from Collaborative Design architect group.

Story and photos by Penny Mio, editor

The grand re-opening of the Baudette Depot was done in grand style last weekend. Guests walking through the doors were amazed at how bright and clean the building now is, compared with the boarded up windows and graffiti from the recent past.

Friday night there was a ribbon cutting ceremony and recognition of sponsors and important guests. The reception was a dinner at the Brink Center. Early on Saturday, from Noon to 2:30 p.m., past Depot board members were invited to tour the depot.

Then the public open house began, and it was shoulder-to-shoulder tight in the building. Music was enjoyed throughout the weekend from Sloughgrass, Jerry Brademen and Witness, all bringing songs from the past into the present.

The Lake of the Woods Art Guild show opened Friday night, and was admired by hundreds during the course of the weekend. Voting was held by popular vote on the 30-word poetry contest and thoughtful prizes were given away by drawing. Third graders Korbin Peterson and Jace Block tied for first place in the youth poetry entries with Lexus Cheney getting an honorable mention. Penny Mio Hirst and Cindy Olson tied for first place in the adult entries. Soren Olesen won the Norma Herring northern lights print, Bonnie Grund own the train case, Jean Grund won the CN blanket, Carol Edstrom won the Minnesota photography book and Linda Roberts won the cupcake basket.

Finishing touches are still being done at the depot, with about a month or so of work remaining. Programs are being scheduled and the board continues to seek funding for finishing touches.

The depot is available for special events and by appointment, and the board is accepting applications for the business and residential rental spaces.

Above: The current Depot Preservation Alliance Members were recognized, left to right, Jeff Poolman, Jay Ruediger, Eileen Olson, Marti Carlson, Joanne Kellner, Carol Birkeland, Cindy Hanson and Hal Bitzer.

A mural painted by Scott Murphy adorns the wall in what was the fine ladies’ waiting room, and is now a breakroom.