

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES AT THE LEDUC HISTORIC ESTATE

In addition to the regular tours at the LeDuc Historic Estate in Hastings, there are two enhancements for visitors - a bus tour of Historic Hastings with a "step-on guide" and/or a walking tour of the Vermillion Falls area. Dakota County Historical Society is now offering an added service to groups who are planning a tour of the LeDuc Historic Estate. "Step-on guides" will be available to join your group at the LeDuc Estate. You will see a wide variety of architecture and hear stories of the people who settled the second oldest city in Minnesota. The downtown area, in its entirety, is on the National Register of Historic Places and shops provide a shopper's paradise. Reservations can be made for the one-hour bus tour by calling 651-437-7055. Groups need to provide their own bus and the cost of the tour is \$85; however, if guests choose to first have a tour of the LeDuc Historic Estate, the cost is \$75. Rates for regular tours are \$5 for seniors and \$6 for adults, and if paid by one check or credit card, there will be a 10% discount for the group.

On the first Saturday, at 10 a.m. of each of the months of June, July, August, September and October special tours will be given of the breathtaking Vermillion Falls and gorge. Participants will enjoy an historic walking tour of Hastings' most beautiful park, just blocks from the LeDuc Historic Estate. They will learn how the Vermillion River and the milling industry shaped Hastings while taking in the natural beauty of the river and falls. Tour rates (beginning May 27, 2009) are the same as at the Estate (\$6, Adults; \$5, Seniors & Military Personnel; \$3, Students up to age 18; and Free for members of Dakota County Historical Society and children age 5 and younger.) Visitors may purchase a discount package for \$10 (for adults) and \$9 (for seniors) which includes a tour of both the Estate and the walking tour. Reservations are REQUIRED and prospective participants should call 651-437-7055. Please check our website: www.dakotahistory.org.