



News From 'Up North'

FALL/WINTER 2006

Remodeling the Chipmunk

We started out with the plan to just take the old antique tub out and replace it with a shower/tub combo. Nothing is ever that simple. We always complicate things with ideas.

The living room/kitchen will be gaining a few inches here and there. The water heater is being moved to the attic so the refrigerator will open easier and the bathroom will be more accessible.

The three kitchen and living room windows are all being replaced by new larger ones. Now you'll be able to see the bay while standing up! The living room area will also have an air conditioner.

Back in '93 or so, another roof was added over the old roof so the front door and entry way floor could be raised to be flush with the rest of the cabin floor. When all is done, the old roof, ceiling and beam will be gone and the cabin will have a vaulted ceiling.

The orange carpeting will be



The new lakeside window is in and the old ceiling is gone, making the whole room brighter.

replaced, a new counter will be installed in the kitchen. The walls will have sheetrock instead of paneling. The bedroom will be about the same with new carpeting.

JOB CHANGES

October 1st was not just the closing date of the resort this year. Mike and I switched roles.

After almost 13 years at the Northwoods Press newspaper, I decided it was time for a change and gave my notice. The need for me to be home more had grown. It was a hard decision, but long overdue. It has been great to work with such wonderful people. I have many great memories and I'll mostly miss the laughter and friendship every week.

All that aside, it's been great to be home more with the kids.

Mike started working for Wilkening Fireplace Co. He began sandblasting and painting and has done some installation. The variety is nice and he has enjoyed getting out and seeing new people and places. He hopes to go to part-time again or on-call so he can work more on the projects around the resort and maybe do a little ice fishing this winter. Spring is coming fast!

New foundation for the Cedar



The first project this fall was to jack up #7. The cabin has been sinking a little each year, and this spring Mike noticed it was pinching off the water line. Time to git 'er done! The cabin was raised up about 18 inches. The deck will be reattached in the spring.

Encouraging Leech Lake surveys, findings

This update is the third in a series of reports the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) sent to Leech Lake area resorts, businesses, and others interested in DNR activities on Leech Lake.

Leech Lake Gillnetting

The Walker Area Fisheries office finished the gillnet survey of Leech Lake on September 15. Since 1983, Leech Lake is sampled annually with gillnets. Nets are set in the same locations and at the same time of year. In this way, we can compare net catches from year to

year. What we found was very encouraging! The overall gillnet catch of walleye was 7.1 per net, up from 4.9 per net last year. The catch rate was even higher in the main lake (8.7 per net). While large walleye are still present in good numbers, nearly one-half of the walleye catch were from the 2005 and 2006 year classes. Further, growth of age 1 walleye (2005 year class) indicates they will reach keeper sizes early next year. We are hearing some fall anglers are keeping walleye that are 13 inches in length. There is more good news from our gillnet survey. The

catch of yellow perch in the main lake increased dramatically from last year, primarily perch less than 7 inches in length. This is likely the result of good natural reproduction and the double-crested cormorant control over the past two years. With a larger population of small yellow perch currently in the lake, better catches of big yellow perch are likely to follow in the coming years. Anglers this fall, however, are catching good numbers of big yellow perch.

The full series of reports in pdf format is on our website at www.woodlandresort.net under Newsletters.

Kabekona Bay, resorting in the old days

Checking my email one day this summer, I received an inquiry from Don Lewis, a longtime Kabekona Springs Resort guest (1936-1972). This resort used to be located in between ours and Bayview Resort, which is also no longer there. He wondered what had happened to his resort and the surrounding ones he remembered.

I responded with the news that they were pretty much all houses now. I also asked him what he remembered about his resort, the area and if he had any old pictures. To us "newcomers" all these things are very interesting. Don has agreed to let me share the following pictures, postcards and memories he has put together.

My first visit to "Cliff Wooley's Camp" was about 1936, I was a babe in arms (so I am told). Cliff Wooley and his wife were from Waterloo, Iowa, as I remember. They did not stay the whole winter there, but would return sometime in late March to open up the camp and clean things up.

(Continued on back)

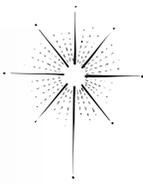
2007 CABIN OPENINGS

May 11-24	#1, 4, 7, 9, 13
May 11-26	#2
May 17-24	#6
May 18-24	#3, 8
May 19-26	#12
June 2-9	#12, 13
June 4-9	#9
July 14-21	#11
Aug. 25-Sept. 1	#2, 4, 6, 7, 8
Aug. 25-30	#9
Sept. 1-8	#1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8
Sept. 8-15	#7, 8, 12
Sept. 15-22	#1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11
Sept. 22-29	#1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 11, 13

If you would like a week that is not available, the best time to call or email is from January 16 (after deposits are due) until around mid-February or March, in case we get some cancellations. We can also add your name to our waiting list for a particular week. Our cabin openings are listed on www.woodlandresort.net.

We wish all our family & friends a
Merry Christmas!

Mike, Kelly, Cara, Jessica & Jeffrey



THE KIDS

Jeffrey turned 4 this fall and attends preschool 2 days a week. He has learned lots of new social skills like forming a line, taking turns, and the big one... "waiting" - which he announces when he's doing it well. Another skill he has learned is asking, "Why?" So now he'll say, "I'm hungry." I'll tell him, "I'll get you a sandwich." "Why?" He also likes to ask, "Why are you stopping?" "Why are you turning?" "Why are we going this way?" and other helpful backseat driver advice.

Jeffrey also attends speech, which is helping us all understand him a lot better. It's fun to work with him at home - he tries so hard to do everything correctly and LOVES getting rewards! He's quite the little helper, too. Dishes. Laundry. Catching boats. Wood. Vacuuming. Shoveling. As long as he sees someone else is doing it - that's what he wants to do!

This is a pretty wonderful month for Jeffrey. We celebrated his baptism on Dec. 10th and are awaiting the finalizing of his adoption. Hopefully the last court hearing in Pennsylvania will be Dec. 19th, and the rest will be done in Minnesota. Then he will officially be Jeffrey SCHMIDTKE!

Jessica is 5½ and has adjusted well to kindergarten. She enjoys pointing out, "I know what that starts with!" It's fun to hear her use what she's been learning.

She's very excited to be a Daisy Girl Scout this year (with Mom as her leader). 6 girls and they all get along great! Most of them are in Just For Kix dance team with her also, which is a lot of fun.

Playing in her room is her favorite pastime. She's very attached to all her toys - each one of them seems to have an appropriate name. Tigey, Squishy & Kitten have made many appearances at show-n-tell. Makes it hard to downsize any inventory.

Cara has turned 9 already - hard to believe, I know. This is her last year in Miss Janna's classroom, being a 3rd grader, and has taken on quite a leadership role - everywhere she goes. She also grew three inches this past year! (maybe we're feeding her too much)

She started guitar lessons in October. Practicing has been hard, but it's a fun instrument. Hopefully soon she'll get to play during sing-a-long at school.

She is in AWANA club with Ethan and Jessica, and it's amazing the bible verses they've all worked on together. The three of them have long bus rides so it's a good place to practice!

Cara is also in her first year at Just For Kix. She is doing great, having a lot of fun and meeting some more new friends from the "big school". She was even awarded "best smile" from her dance teachers one day!



Jeffrey with his big cake on his baptism day.



Jessica spending the day with Squishy Pig.



Cara and Jessica after their first Just For Kix dance performance on Parent's Night.

What else is new for this summer?

The Leech Lake/Walker community is very excited to be hosting the 2007 Governor's Fishing Opener. Several events are planned for the weekend including dinners, tours, activities and fishing contests.

Around the resort, there will be a few little changes here and there. We are going to set up recycling bins down

by the fish cleaning house for those who would like to recycle newspaper, plastic, tin cans, glass and the aluminum cans as we have always done.

We also sold our big pontoon. It was just too big! The 24 foot will still be available to rent, though. You will also be able to rent our canoe by the hour or day - it's very peaceful!

Need a winter getaway?

#12 will be open from mid-January to early February. (Eelpout Fest is reserved) The ice is forming quicker than last year with some below

0° days, so by January, it should be great for ice fishing or snowmobiling. Give us a call or email if you're interested - we'll do weekends, too!

Kabekona Bay... continued

Each cabin, and there were nine, had a path (outhouse). You pumped your own water and heated it on the stove for baths and doing dishes, or on the wood stove that sat in the corner of the larger room.

For many years we would have Cabin #5. It had two bedrooms and room for a cot. Each morning Cliff or hired man would come around with ice for the "ice box". During the winter they would put up ice in the ice house and cover it with saw dust. The wood stove had a large box behind it and you carried your own wood from the wood pile up by the ice house. If you wanted smaller pieces, you did the splitting yourself.

For many years the lodge had a little store on the front porch. Later it was moved to the back. This was also the residence of Cliff and his wife.

When Dad first started going to Leech Lake he did not have a motor. They rowed across Kabekona Bay over by the bridge and would work along the bank. In the early days all the boats were wooden 18 footers and heavy. About 1941 or 42 he got a little 2hp Johnson motor. It was not fast, but it got you there. Later on in the 40's he got a 10hp Mercury. That got us there faster and we used the little motor for trolling.

Sometime in the late 40's, Cliff sold the resort. It was offered to Dad, but he turned it down. The new owner was Ray and Amy Lusch, and the name was changed to Kabekona Springs. They made some changes in the main lodge building so that they could live in it year around. Ray had some 16 ft. fiberglass boats and they sure moved with the 10 hp motor.

One of the first things to change was indoor plumbing and hot and cold running water. Gone were the days of the pump and a mad dash to the out-

house.

Pine Cone Resort was the last one to be built along there about 1951. The people were from Kansas City. Later on that was sold to the new Bayview owners. Mail was delivered by boat Monday-Friday out of Walker.

Grandpa loved to fish just as much as Dad did, but Dad always showed him up. They would go out on Walker Bay and drift. First thing Dad would do was take the life jacket and spread it out on the seat and lay down. Grandpa would sit and concentrate on the end of the pole, Dad would jump up, land a fish and Grandpa would sit in wonder. A few times we got caught in storms and had to put in at Walker Bay Resort.

When Ray Lusch passed away, Amy kept the place running, with the help of a local man. Her nephew, Dick, was the dock boy. He and I, being both boys and looking for girls, knew Bayview was the place to find them. Roy Simons was the owner then (later he sold it and ran the Drug Store).

We did quite a bit of shopping in Walker for food and also at Lundrigans Mens clothing store. Saturday night was the night to go to town. The local Native Americans would hold a Powwow and everybody had to see that and check out the fish in the tackle shop window. They ran a contest for the biggest fish of the week.

We did get some nice fish. Dad, always looking for muskies, got two, a 12 lb. in 1953 and a 16 lb. in '54. Both were mounted and recorded on the group's "fishing contest" plaque.

In the early 70's Dad had his fill of not getting any fish and decided it was time to find another place. This ended our trips to Leech Lake.

(The full story with pictures and old postcards will be in the lodge guest book this summer for all to enjoy.)