



# News From 'Up North'

FALL/WINTER 2007

## Plans set for harbor renovation

Plans are underway for the harbor to be completely rebuilt next fall, probably starting October 1st.

Shoreline Solutions, who has done several other harbors in the area, has been working with us and Cass County to approve the project. Step one was to complete a septic compliance on the property. This has been done and hopefully will be approved by next spring. Several permits and plans will have to be approved by both state and county.

Depending on the final design, we might lose a portion of our boathouse and a few trees will have to come down.

We are very excited and are looking forward to having a safer walkway, possibly larger boat slips, and adjustable docks to accommodate the forever fluctuating water levels of Leech Lake.



The harbor walls have been caving more each year. Anchor cables have slipped, poles are weakening and the original design and installation has not withstood the pressure.

## Leech Lake survey report, findings

The following is a summary of the updates (8/31/07 and 10/12/07), which is part of a series of reports the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) sends to Leech Lake area resorts, businesses and others interested in DNR activities on Leech Lake. All updates are available by visiting <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/areas/fisheries/walker/index.html>.

### Large Lake Survey

- The annual Leech Lake fisheries survey began in July and extended until early October.
- Survey work uses shoreline seining (July), trawling (August), experimental gillnets (September), and fall elec-

trofishing (October). Regardless of which method is used, catch rates reflect changes in relative abundance and are therefore not intended to directly determine the population size.

- The summer portion of the Leech Lake survey (seining and trawling) was completed.
- The long-term trawling stations (Fivemile, Goose, and Whipholt) were trawled for a total effort of 100 minutes this year instead of the previous 60 minutes to improve sampling precision.
- Mean catch rate of young-of-year walleyes in bottom trawl hauls was below average at 32.1 fish/hour. We generally do not see large year classes

## ADOPTION FINALIZED

Jeffrey's adoption was finalized this spring on May 22nd. Every time we drive by the courthouse up town he yells out, "I got adopted there!" He enjoys talking about it, and asks questions about where he used to live and who had him when he was a baby. He also knows he gets to have us as Mom and Dad forever, and we are all very thankful.

We can still remember the first day we found out that Jeffrey needed a home. Somehow, a wonderful bond is created to a child even before you meet, almost like finding out you're going to have a baby. We can't imagine our lives without Jeffrey... he's a very special boy and such a blessing to have as our son and little brother!



Jeffrey and Dad hanging out by the park on the day of his adoption.

*The presence of lake whitefish is an indication of excellent water quality.*

establish during successive years on our large lakes, and high recruitment during three consecutive years is rare, due primarily to competition and predation among age classes.

- Mean length of age-0 walleyes captured in trawl hauls was almost 6 inches, which bodes well for winter survival and recruitment of these fish. Similarly, fish in the 2006 year class are also growing fast (some are already approaching 12 inches!) and should continue to provide great angling opportunities in the coming years.

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## 2008 CABIN OPENINGS

May 9-23	Cabin #2, 7, 8, 9, 13
May 16-23	Cabin #1, 3, 5
May 17-24	Cabin #12
May 24-31	Cabin #8
May 31-June 7	Cabin #5, 9, 11, 13
Aug. 16-23	Cabin #8
Aug. 23-30	Cabin #4, 7, 9, 12
Aug. 30-Sept. 6	Cabin #1, 7
Sept. 6-13	Cabin #7, 8, 12
Sept. 13-20	Cabin #1, 4, 7, 8
Sept. 20-28	Cabin #1, 3, 7, 8, 11

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](http://www.woodlandresort.net) or email us at [wland@arvig.net](mailto:wland@arvig.net)

## Chase On The Lake project

Huge cranes shoot up from behind the businesses on Main Street in downtown Walker. Much of the structure which will make up the new Chase On The Lake complex are taking shape. The only remainder of the historical building is the front entrance portion from the original hotel (shown left).

The new Chase is planning to open in May of 2008, offering 70 luxury hotel rooms and suites plus 46 condotel units, 2-lane bowling alley and lounge, restaurant and bar with a view of Walker Bay, full service spa, marina with boat rentals and more.



## #12 JAN./FEB.

#12 will be open from mid-January until Feb. 1st and from Feb. 8-11. The trailer sleeps 9 people and is a great spot for snowmobiling, ice fishing or just a get-together!

# THE KIDS

Jeffrey turned 5 this fall and is in pre-kindergarten. He's learning his letters and numbers and (very exciting) gets to take a lunch box this year! He loves to help clean up the classroom and makes sure all his friends are helping too.

Jeffrey also goes to speech class at the big school and is working on the "F" sound. He's very proud to say "Deffrey" now instead of Deppey for his name.

The other day Jeffrey decided "From now on I'm gonna be a big boy." Thank the Lord! This could mean a variety of different things in his mind, though. He also said, "When I grow up I'm gonna build a house with my friends. My big friends, not my little friends." (He's very determined to have a sleepover someday)

On his days off from school, he loves to spend time with Dad going for snowmobile rides and working in the garage. He's great at taking care of our new bunnies and plans on reading books to them. He also love to help make cookies and peel potatoes and carrots and put them in a pot of soup because it looks like a little hot tub!



**Jeffrey enjoying a sucker while getting his face painted at the June carnival.**



**Jessica with one of her many pet caterpillars this past summer.**

of candy during our fall sale! We're hoping to go on an overnight trip with our troop this spring. For Christmas, Gramma Jo's residents will be helping us make ornaments, eat cookies and sing Christmas carols with them!

Jessica enjoys her dance class and going to AWANA, where she has been learning verses and memorizing the books of the Bible. She is also looking forward to being one of the angels for the Christmas musical this year!



**Cara holding her new bunny, Morning Glory.**

We want to go to Hawaii and so think we might go! In dance our first performance is Dec. 10th (I wish you could come to that too). In AWANA we're getting so many verses!

Jessica is 6½ and loves her new 1st grade teacher, Mrs. Metzger. The whole school enjoys visiting their class's pet hamster, "Turtle". Learning site words, such as "the, is, like, will, I, we and they" has helped make reading books fun this year.

She's enjoying having her brownie Girl Scout troop come to our house for meetings. We've made new friends, earned four Try-It badges and sold lots

*(written by Cara)* This year I'm in fourth grade and ten years old. This year Jessica and I went out camping (in the campground) with Jack and Dan it was really fun! There was a thunderstorm. This fall my dad finally let me drive the lawn mower one day to pick up leaves. I did pretty good!

School is going great! (Lots of math) We're having another musical (I wish you could come). It's called Miracle on Main Street. This coming summer I'm going to a music camp with my dad. I'm also playing guitar and I haven't been practicing that much. In Girl Scouts there's only three of us. Me, my friends Kylie and Lidia.

# Freedom to Breathe provisions

Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty signed into law the Freedom to Breathe (FTB) provisions on May 16, 2007, to protect employees and the public from the health hazards of second-hand smoke.



According to the new law, we are required to prohibit smoking inside the lodge, however smoking will be permitted on the deck and the area outside the lodge. Smoking will continue to be permitted in all our cabins.

## Leech Lake... continued

• Catch rates of age-0 yellow perch (15,051 fish/hour) were well above the average of 9,505 fish/hour, and suggest a suitable forage base is available for walleyes this fall and winter.

### Whitefish Kill in Walker Bay

• A whitefish kill occurred in Walker Bay during August 9-11, 2007.

• Lake whitefish (*Coregonus clupeaformis*) are found in many of the deep, cool-water lakes east of the prairie in the northern portions of the state, including Lake Superior. Whitefish require cool, well-oxygenated water in the summertime.

• Because of this requirement, whitefish spend most of their summers feeding on invertebrates and other small fish near the thermocline.

• The thermocline is a "barrier" dividing the epilimnion (less dense, warmer, well-oxygenated water) and the hypolimnion (more dense, colder water with low oxygen concentrations). The hypolimnion is low in oxygen because the thermocline is the extent of sunlight penetration into the water. Without sunlight, photosynthesis by aquatic plants and algae does not occur.

• Summer kills of whitefish and ciscoes happen when fish become "pinched" between excessively warm temperatures in the epilimnion and low oxygen below the thermocline. In most cases the largest individuals are the most susceptible to this type of mortality.

• Whitefish serve as an excellent forage species for walleyes, northern pike, and muskellunge, and also as table fare for human consumption.

• The presence of lake whitefish is an indication of excellent water quality.

• The current state record of 12 lbs. 4.5 oz. was caught in Leech Lake on March 21, 1999.

### Gillnet Survey (10/12/07 update)

• Goals of the 2005-2010 Leech Lake Management Plan are to protect and maintain walleye spawning stock, to increase overall walleye abundance, to improve the population size structure, and to establish two good year classes during this five-year period.

• Gillnets are the best tool for monitoring walleye and yellow perch populations, but also provide valuable information on other species, such as ciscoes and northern pike. The annual gillnet survey of the Leech Lake fishery was completed from September 3 through 14, 2007. Management plan goals were based on gillnet catches.

### Walleye

• Biomass of mature female walleyes was 1.92 lbs/acre, which is above the management goal of 1.25-1.75 lbs/acre, indicating that plenty of females are available for good natural reproduction.

• The gillnet catch rate of walleyes was 13.1 fish/net. This is the second highest on record (13.4 fish/net in 1988) since standardized annual surveys began in 1983, and well above the 1983-2007 average of 7.5 fish/net.

• Walleyes of all sizes are present in relatively high numbers.

• Both the 2005 and 2006 year classes of walleye are large and will provide excellent angling opportunities well into the future. Based on trawling, the 2007 year class does not appear to be large in number. However, these fish have been growing fast and could exhibit high survival, which in turn may result in the establishment of another good year class.

• All walleye management goals established in the 2005-2010 Leech Lake Management Plan have been met or exceeded, and Leech Lake should provide quality walleye fishing during coming years.

### Yellow Perch

• The catch rate of yellow perch in gillnets was 36.8 fish/net and is above the 1983-2007 average of 21.7 fish/net.

• While only 6% of the yellow perch sampled exceeded 10 inches in length, 29% were 8 inches and longer. This is because a large number of smaller perch were produced in recent years and are now recruiting to the gillnets. These fish will continue to grow and reach harvestable sizes into the future.

*Wishing you all a Merry Christmas!*

