



News From 'Up North'

FALL/WINTER 2008

Harbor renovation approved and completed

The harbor project has made room for maneuvering and parking 16 large fishing boats and a safer walkway

This fall has been an exciting time, as another project was added to Woodland's history. The harbor renovation project began in the summer of 2007, with scheduling the project dates, planning and design (with hopes of approval for a 5-12 foot expansion) and figuring out how best to finance such a project.

A variety of emotions came along with each step towards completing the new harbor, which was supposed to begin Oct. 1st. Several factors led to the delay, including when we would receive the actual permit, allowing the work to begin. The DNR office in Bemidji, after many phone calls and months of waiting, allowed a 17 foot extension to the west side (towards Cabin #6).

Cass County, who is in charge of the land around the harbor, came 2 days later on the morning of Oct. 8th. We were told that we needed a variance for the west wall because of the amount of dirt that needed to be removed for the extension. At that time, we had 2 hours to make the deadline for the Oct. 28th Planning Commission meeting. Luckily, we live in Walker, where the county offices are located.

Wednesday, Oct. 8th - We watched, as a huge excavator was brought down the lane, along with other equipment and supplies. This was the first glimpse of what was to come.

Friday, Oct. 10th - (below) Work began at the entrance of the



Prep work, like moving the boat house, removing the lodge deck and docks in the harbor, was done the week after the resort closed. We were glad to be able to save the building so lifejackets and firewood will have a storage place close to the lodge.

harbor, where steel railroad rails, shoring material, fabric and dirt were used to blockade the water from coming back in the harbor when they began pumping it dry.

Tuesday, Oct. 14th - Much of the dirt where the boat house sat was removed and sections of the old walls were cut apart and lifted out. Posts were set for the new wall to the right of the entrance.

Wednesday, Oct. 15th - The big pine tree by the swimming dock was cut down so there was room to put in the deadmen posts to secure the wall.

Thursday, Oct. 16th - Posts for the east wall had begun to be set.

Fri.-Sat., Oct. 17th & 18th - Loads of dirt and muck from the harbor bottom were removed. More trees around the harbor were cut and hauled away. The last of the fish in the middle of the harbor were caught

(some by hand!) and released into the lake. Some of the old harbor poles were pounded into the ground to support the walkway to be built later. The east wall was completed.

Mon.-Fri., Oct. 20th-25th - The lodge wall was worked on most of the week. Then, good news and bad news arrived. Our variance meeting was rescheduled, due to a publishing error. Our general contractor from Shoreline Solutions resigned, due to health issues. Both left us with a whole list of issues to ponder. The good news? Bill Wyffels and his crew, who had been doing most of the work, thankfully stood by us and offered to complete the project.

Saturday, Oct. 25th - Mike and Jim join the crew and the next wall was nearly finished in one day! Jim ran the top, feeding the bottom crew boards and kept things moving along.



Sections of the old harbor wall were cut and pulled out with each pole. Most of the old poles were used as supports for the new 6 foot walkway around the harbor.

Sun. - Mon., Oct. 26th-27th - With the last wall completed up to the left side of the opening, the excavator then lifted the bobcat and auger back out of the harbor.

(more harbor... to back page)

2009 CABIN OPENINGS

May 8-15 Cabin #1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13
 May 14-22 Cabin #1, 3, 7, 8, 9, 13
 May 16-23 Cabin #12, 13
 May 30-June 6 Cabin #1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13

June 6-13 Cabin #8
 Aug. 22-29 Cabin #11
 Aug. 29-Sept. 5 Cabin #13
 Sept. 5-12 Cabin #1, 2, 7, 8, 13
 Sept. 12-19 Cabin #5, 11, 12
 Sept. 19-26 Cabin #1, 2, 3, 7, 8
 Sept. 26-Oct. 3 Cabin #1, 2, 7, 8, 11

There are currently no openings for July 2009.

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 or email us at wland@arvig.net



The excavation crew spent their first day (in the rain) preparing the entrance, a tedious process that was made a lot easier with their big equipment.



The west wall is close to done as the excavator continues to remove dirt and sections of the old harbor. An auger is used to drill holes for each new post and then are hammered into place using the big bucket.

THE KIDS

Jeffrey has made many new friends this year while going to kindergarten and finally getting to ride the big yellow bus.

Jeffrey also has a new speech teacher this year. He enjoys having the van pick him up and bringing him to the big school.

He has been learning his letters and the sounds they make. Dad has been teaching him how to say the alphabet backwards too - he's getting pretty good at it!

On his days off from school, he loves spending time playing with his cars and games on the computer. He likes to have things neatly in their place. If he is sent to his room, he'll reorganize and have it all cleaned up. He lost his first tooth on Nov. 1st. It was a little loose and as soon as we explained how the tooth fairy will leave him money when he puts it under his pillow, he went in his room and yanked it out.



Jeffrey's big catch of the day! He spent hundreds of hours fishing this summer. He learned to bait his hook and take his own fish off.



Jessica spent a day at the beach with her friend Jasmine.

Jessica is 7½ this year and is enjoying 2nd grade. She takes every opportunity to use her cursive writing - even before she learned how to connect each letter. She also lost her front tooth on Cara's birthday. We're not sure if the one next to it will come out this year (she can have a loose tooth for months before she's ready to part with it).

Her Brownie Girl Scout troop grew from 8 to 12 girls this year. This fall,

we went on a sleepover at Camp Shingobee Timbers and learned lots of fun games and songs and enjoyed roasting marshmallows for s'mores. The girls are also looking forward to their Sleeping With The Sharks trip that they have been working towards with their cookies and candy sales.

Jessica started playing the violin this year and will be performing with the preschool and pre-kindergarten classes during their Christmas program. She is also excited about being Mary in the Sunday School Program and having a part in the school musical this year.



Cara rides the chairlift up to the Alpine Slide, while spending a fun day in July with her cousins.

Cara turned 11 this fall and is enjoying 5th grade and being in class with the older kids at school. It's been fun for her to talk about fashion and girl stuff with the older girls. Cara now plans to grow her hair long again, but it's taking a VERY LONG time. She is looking forward to getting her ears pierced when she is 12 and keeps counting how many years until she can get her driver's license.

Volleyball was fun, but lots of hard work this year, with the new coach. Cara has also joined the youth group at our church. The group plans to go downhill skiing in Bemidji this January - that will be fun to try!

She started flute lessons with the new band instructor, Mr. E, at the Walker school. The 5th and 6th grade band gave their first performance on Dec. 8th and did a wonderful job, especially with only a few lessons!

December also brings the school musical, "I Witness News: Live From Bethlehem" where Cara has 2 solos and "the announcer" part this year.

Cara still enjoys Just For Kix with her friends and likes wearing their new uniform with lots of green sequins (her favorite color). Her group did a great job at the Christmas show and is looking forward to preparing for the spring competition in Brainerd again, where they placed 2nd last year.



The new harbor has begun its first winter freeze-over. Hopes are to install the 6 docks and poles before the ice gets too thick to cut. Fortunately, the small trees in the foreground made it through the project.

Last week, Oct. 28th-Nov. 3rd- Mike worked with the crew each day, securing the walls and finishing the walls on both sides of the harbor opening. Extra support rods were added to the small angled walls on the entrance. Once the water was pumped back in, each task became a little more difficult. Insulated waders sure came in handy! The drain system was installed, dirt was backfilled around the harbor and the rocks (riprap) were readjusted on the lake-shore.

With the harbor complete, next comes finishing the framing for the walkway and the steps coming down from the lodge deck. Six docks with poles and bumpers need to be installed. In the spring we plan to finish the top of the walkway, electrical work for the harbor lights and outlets, and set up the boat house and the gas tank for the gas dock.

For more pictures of the harbor project visit woodlandresort.net and click on the "harbor renovation" link.

Plans to pave state trail in fall 2009

In October, a DNR crew surveyed more details of the section of Paul Bunyan Trail which runs through the resort. Plans are to pave the section from Hwy. 371 to Laporte and from Laporte to Guthrie, which would connect Walker to Bemidji. The trail is paved from Walker to Hackensack and heads south to the Brainerd area.

In Walker, the Paul Bunyan State Trail joins the paved Heartland Trail, which heads west to Akeley, Nevis and Park Rapids. The Heartland trail also continues north to Cass Lake.

Paving of the trail sections should begin in the fall of 2009, giving bikers and trail enthusiasts great opportunities to explore in the summer of 2010.

HYDRO-POWER!

Mike's latest "hobby" is Hydrogen power for all of our vehicles, after watching countless hours of U-Tube videos on the subject. Many resort guests received demonstrations at the lodge this summer, with the hood up and the truck running, and the occasional "popping" sound coming from Mike lighting the exhausted hydrogen with a torch.

The drawbacks? Finding a spot to put it all. Most vehicles have just enough space for the usual car stuff (and it's tight). For his first experiment, he dismantled the grill off the front of the white truck and mounted the system above the bumper. Not pretty, but I guess it works. He then dismantled the radio so his little gadget thing could be mounted in the dash, convenient for adjusting the amps while you're driving down the road in case the engine starts to cut out. "Some of us" just choose not to drive the truck.

After several mileage tests, he found it saved up to 10.5 miles per gallon! He now needs to figure out a system that will work in the winter without the water freezing. Back to U-Tube!

*Wishing all our family and friends good tidings
and great joy this Christmas
and throughout the New Year!*

Mike, Kelly, Cara, Jessica & Jeffrey



And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest." LUKE 2:13, 14