A scenic sunset over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange and yellow glow that reflects on the water. A small boat with two people is silhouetted against the bright light of the sun. The sky is filled with soft, golden clouds. The overall mood is peaceful and nostalgic.

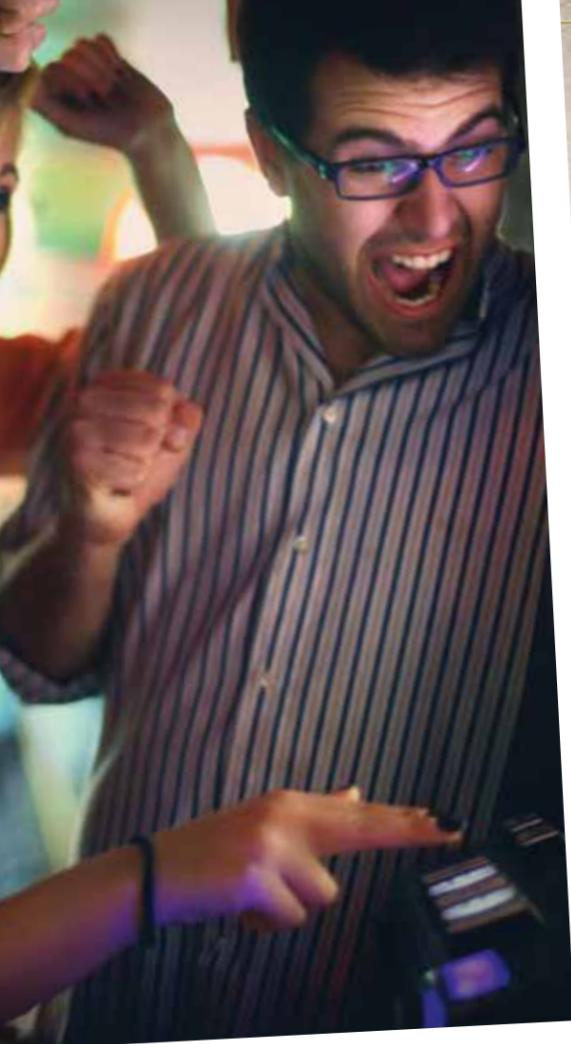
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Craft and Vendor Show,
May 13th, 2017

Pow Wow
Historic Cherne Property,
Ground Blessing, June 1st
Pow Wow, June 2nd- 4th, 2017

**8th Annual Charity
Golf Tournament**
June 24th, 2017

**Seven Clans Casino
26th Anniversary**
August 14th - 18th, 2017

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Craft & Vendor Show
October 7th, 2017

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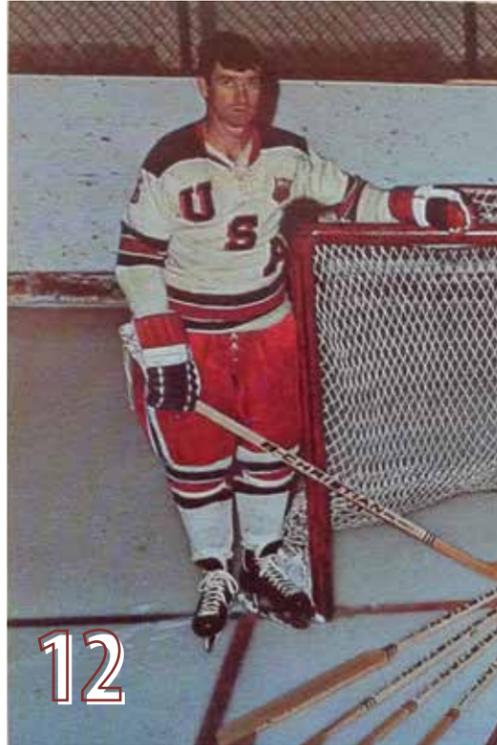
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EVENT CALENDAR

WARROD, MINNESOTA EVENTS 2017

January

Varmint Contest,
Streiff Sporting Goods
12U & 10UA
Jan. 13-14-15, 2017
Pee Wee A
Jan. 27-28-29, 2017

February

Squirt B
Feb. 3-4-5, 2017
Squirt A
Feb. 10-11-12, 2017
Lion's Ski Plane Fly-In
Breakfast
Feb. 26, 2017
Fishing Derby
Springsteel Resort &
Warroad Area Chamber of
Commerce, Feb. 18, 2017
3rd Annual Pride of the
North Pond Hockey
Game

March

Annual Hunting Classic,
Streiff Sporting Goods
St. Patrick's Day 5K

April

Dinner Theatre
Easter Egg Hunt
Food Plot Days
Streiff Sporting Goods
Family Fun Shoot
Warroad Lost River
Sportsmen Complex
Zippel Bay Northern
Tournament
Zippel Bay Resort,
April 29 - 30, 2017

May

Viva La Diva Expo
Craft & Vendor Show
Seven Clans Casino,
Mother's Day Weekend
Minnesota Fishing
Opener
Memorial Day Program
& Observance
Great Outdoors Event
Marvin Home Center
May Walk/Run
Life Care Medical Center
Sturgeon Tournament
Sportsman's Lodge,
May 6 & 7, 2017

June

8th Annual Charity
Golf Tournament
12th Annual North
Country Cruisers
Annual Car Show
Pow-Wow Historic Cherne
Property, 2 - 4
Wildflower Celebration
Williams
6th Annual Wine Walk

July

Independence Day
Celebration
Fireworks and
Entertainment
Walleye Fishing
Tournament
Streiff Sporting Goods,
July 15, 2017

Roseau County Fair
Roseau, MN
Morris Taylor Memorial
Golf Tournament
Warroad Estates Golf
Course
Women's Rally for a
Cure Breast Cancer
Tournament - Warroad
Estates Golf Course
Warroad Summer
Theatre
Hockeytown USA®
Celebrity Golf
Tournament
July 22, 2017

August

Fall Hunting Show
Streiff Sporting Goods
LOW Steam & Gas Show
Roosevelt, Aug. 4 - 6
Family Fun Shoot
Warroad Lost River
Sportsmen Complex
Yellow Rose 5K Walk/Run
Marvin Windows
and Doors, Aug. 12, 2017
Warroad Summer
Theatre
12th Annual Femme
Fatale ATV Run
Couples Golf
Tournament
Warroad Estates Golf Course
6th Annual Beer Crawl
Warroad MN
Seven Clans Casino
26th Anniversary,
Aug. 14 - 18

September

Arnesen's 8th Annual
South Shore Classic
Fishing Tournament
Arnesen's Rocky Point,
Sept. 2
Annual Roseau/LOW
Sportsman's
Club ATV Run
Kids Outdoors
Streiff Sporting Goods
Don Hanson Day
Warroad Airport
Lake of the Woods
Artist Retreat
Laketrails Base Camp,
Oak Island, Sept. 7 - 10
Rally For A Cure
Tournament
Warroad Estates Golf
Course
Bushcraft Bike Ultra
Labor Day Weekend
Walk to Remember
Warroad Senior Living
Center
St. Jude Fundraiser
Horse Ride - Bemis Hill

October

Potato Day Celebration
Williams
Annual Waterfowl
Contest
Streiff Sporting Goods
Harvest Hoedown, Craft
& Vendor Show
October 7
Halloween Event
Doug's Supermarket
Haunted House &
S'more Roast
Doc's Harbor Inn
Monster Mash 5K

November

Minnesota Deer Opener
Christmas Tree Lighting
Ceremony

December 2016

Ultimate Ice Fishing
Show
Streiff Sporting Goods
Sleigh Rides and Photos
with Santa
Streiff Sporting Goods &
Marvin Home Center
Warroad Summer
Theatre
A Hunting Shack
Christmas Dec. 6-10
Christmas with Elvis
Dinner Show
Seven Clans Casino,
Dec. 9 & 10, 2016
Pee Wee B
Dec. 9-10-11, 2016
Bantam A
Dec. 16-17-18, 2016
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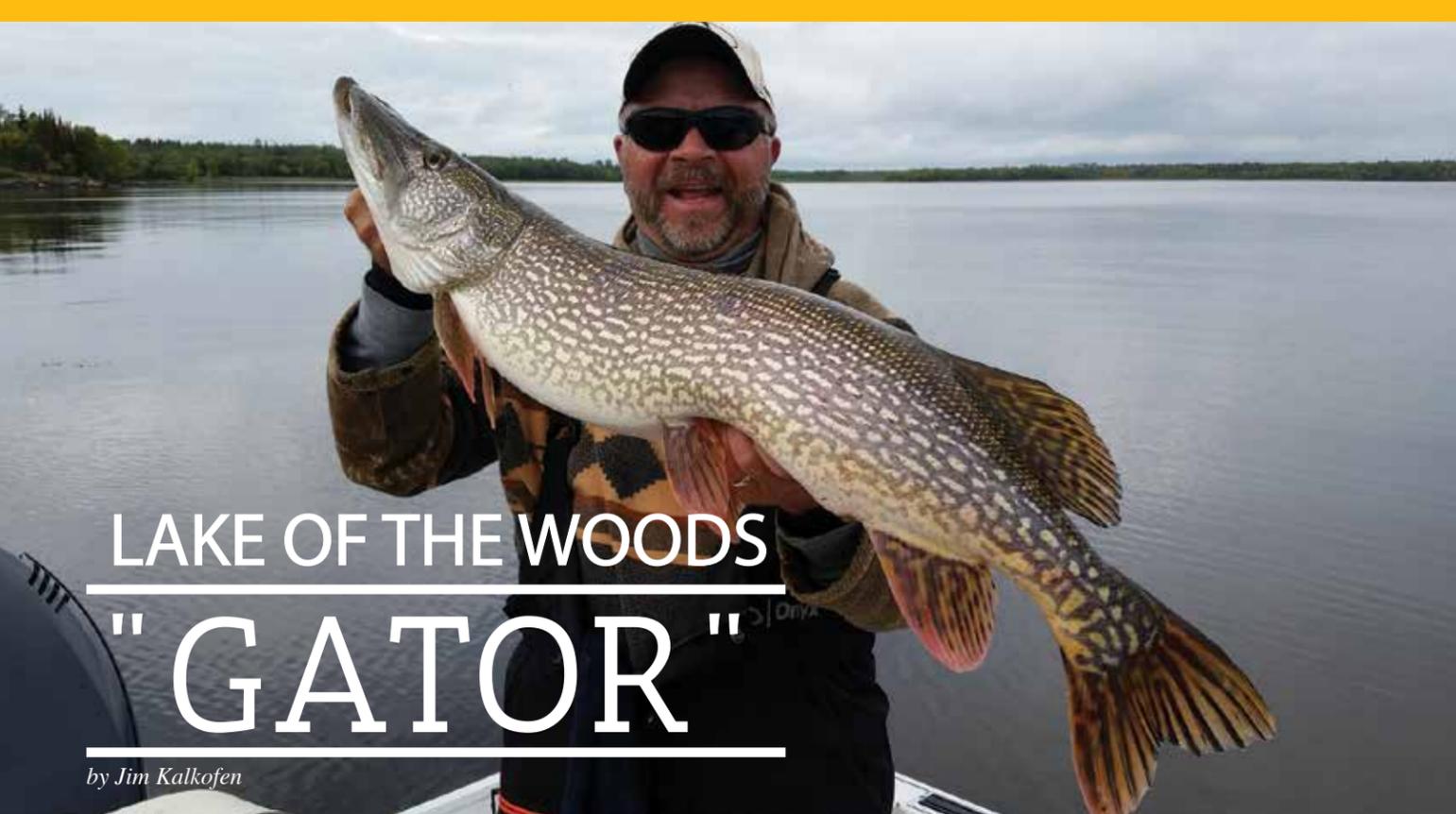


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LAKE OF THE WOODS "GATOR"

by Jim Kalkofen

NORTHERN PIKE go by many names, from gators to water wolves. From slimers to toothy critters. From hammer handles (small ones) to pickerel. From snakes to snot-rockets. No matter the name, with pike, fun is the game.

They always seem willing to bite. They are accessible on Lake of the Woods all seasons of the year and there is no closed season on pike. They are some of the biggest fish in the lake, and with the lake's special regulations, the population of giants will continue to grow. All pike from 30 to 40 inches must be released (but take a photo first). Anglers may keep one pike longer than 40 inches for their trophy wall, but most people prefer to measure the fish for a fiberglass replica. One-fifth of the lake's pike population is at least three feet long, according to DNR sampling research.

Since pike are one of the tastiest fish in the lake, anglers may keep three that are less than 30 inches. Lake of the Woods is famous for walleyes and saugers, and many open water and ice anglers only chase these species, leaving pike virtually untouched. The first fact to know about these fish is, "be careful."

Their teeth earned them the "water wolf" name. They are so sharp they will quickly cut monofilament line and even super lines like PowerPro and FireLine. They are fond of fingers that find their way into the cavernous mouth while trying to retrieve a jig.

A pike angler's arsenal includes wire leaders to prevent bite-offs.

It also includes needle-nose pliers, a mouth spreader, a bigger net and a firm grip. Once in the net, the best place to grasp a writhing pike is over the gill covers (behind the eyes). Never grab a pike in the eye sockets. Squeeze over the gill flaps to control the fish. If a big pike flops out of the net onto the boat deck, standby for bedlam. The thrashing might knock tackle boxes into the lake, and when the commotion is finally subdued and the fish is back in the water, the other popular name, "slimer" will be evident. Pike have a very thick mucus coating over their entire body, which they share with everything they touch. It also has a strong odor; many anglers rinse the boat right away.

Now, for the fun part – catching these fighters. They attack lures and live bait with gusto. Anglers may troll, cast, rig, jig, or bobber fish with success. Starting in Spring, pike move into the shallows to spawn, right about the time the ice is departing the back bays or streams, ditches and rivers like the Warroad River. They spawn in very shallow water by laying eggs over old weeds. They can be caught casting the age-old pike lure, a spoon (Northland Jaw-Breaker or Dardevle). Retrieve just fast enough to keep the spoon from snagging the weeds. By keeping the rod tip high, the lure won't go as deep. For early season, the size 12 or size 14 Rapala Husky Jerk is a winner. Cast and twitch the lure about one to two feet. Pause. Repeat. Try various cadences until the pike tell you what's best.

As spring warms, so does the action. Pike will await other species as they move shallow to commence spawning. That means pike will be near the emerging weedbeds, plentiful on the Warroad

corner of the lake. In fact, these massive weedbeds hold pike all open-water season. Zippel Bay resort holds a popular pike tournament every spring. As summer moves the needle higher on the thermometer, pike extend their range farther out into the lake. They can be caught on the tips of points or slight bumps/reefs with rocks or weeds. Casting deeper running crankbaits over these areas will produce pike, but also surprise anglers with some bonus trophy walleyes. Some anglers fish near shore and fan-cast the weedy areas with great success.

Trolling crankbaits on the Muskeg Bay basin is a favorite tactic summer and fall. The late season pike anglers combine hunting and fishing. As the water cools after October 1st, pike roam the same green weedbeds and back bays looking for easy meals as in springtime. When pike are located (see them in the water, they attack a lure but don't get hooked), back off, anchor, and toss bobbers with minnows dangling below. This works as well in fall as it does in spring.

Winter fishing is popular on Lake of the Woods. Fishing for pike means using a light wire leader (tie your own with Cortland Critter Wire of 15 pound test), and use spoons or jigs. Tip with a whole minnow or minnow-head, and be ready to catch walleyes, saugers, eelpout, perch and northern pike. In late

winter, dead-bait hanging below a tip-up or on bottom is effective.

When anglers locate pike, they should share the information with those at the resorts and motels. Pike are one of the most under-utilized resources of the lake, and after the screaming runs and bare-knuckle fight that a pike provides, anglers want more. The Warroad corner of Lake of the Woods is the place!



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A BRIEF HISTORY OF WARROAD SUMMER THEATRE

Warroad Summer Theatre began in 1981, the brainchild of Thom Karlsen and Alfred William Nott calling themselves TANK productions that first year. They hired Jim Provance as Designer/Tech Director/Director and LaRoy Borchert as Music Director. There were 5 plays in 10 weeks. Each show ran 8 performances over 2 weeks in the Del-Rich building. It was a tiny space for full on productions of shows such as *I Remember Mama* and *The Sound of Music*. After that first season Alfred left the area and Thom went to Los Angeles. A group of people that had been involved including Susie Willems and Lynda Myers thought it should continue, so a board of directors was formed under the new name of "Warroad Summer Theatre."

The old gymnasium in the Warroad High School was turned into The Old Gym Theatre for four shows each summer with one dinner theatre production in the Warroad American Legion. When the new school was built, WST moved into the Warroad High School Mini Theatre where they still are today. More of a lecture room than theatre, it was still a nice step up with numbered seating and air conditioning.

WST has continued doing shows in the mini-theatre every summer with dinner theatre shows at the Legion and Rock Harbor Lodge at Rocky Point. They are hoping to expand beyond the summer months and recently moved one production to the Christmas season. WST has also been doing children's theatre workshop productions in the mini-theatre under the name of Popcorn Players.

A Hunting Shack Christmas
Dec. 6 - 10, 2016, Warroad American Legion

Go to www.warroadsummertheatre.com for 2017 upcoming productions.

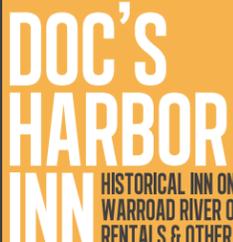


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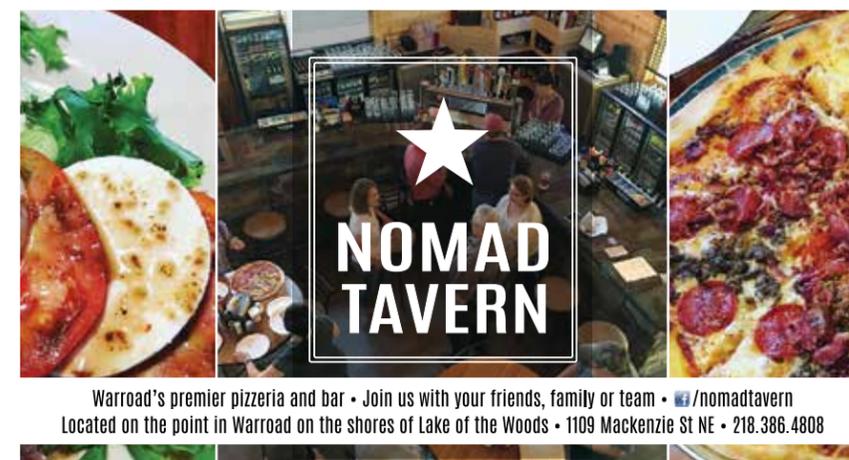
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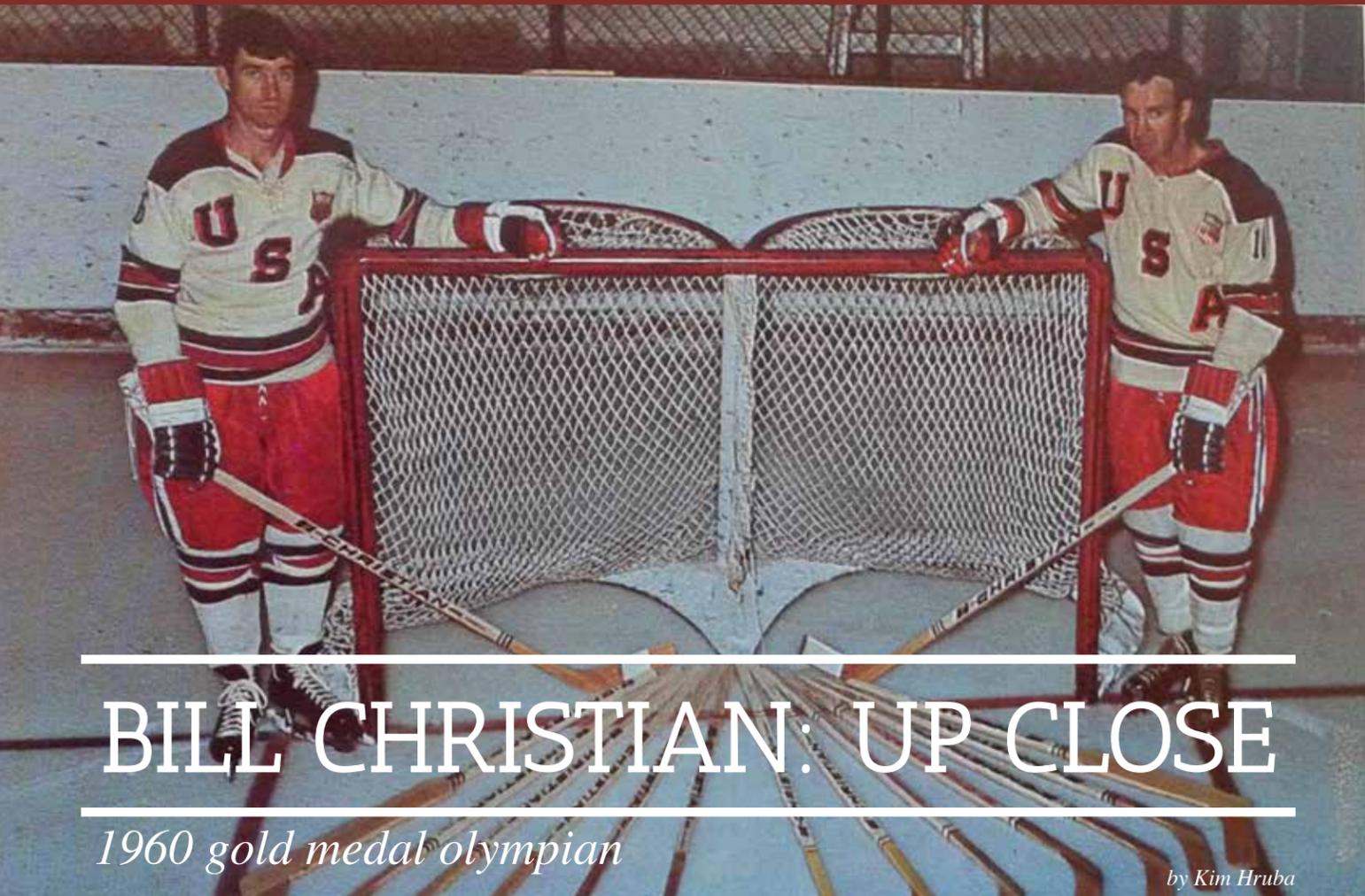
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BILL CHRISTIAN: UP CLOSE

1960 gold medal olympian

by Kim Hruha

THESE DAYS when you walk into the Gardens Arena and see Bill Christian's Olympic portrait hanging above the windows overlooking the rink, it's easy to pull out your smartphone and simply Google his name. The search will produce thousands of hits, telling you all about Bill's hockey statistics and career, his moments of Olympic glory, and about the Christian Brothers and their hockey stick company. And if your signal is too weak or too slow, turn around and you'll find a more detailed tribute to him and other Hockey Hall of Famers between the entrance and a set of four arena seats – a gift from the gold-winning 1960 Men's Olympic Hockey team.

So what can yet another article tell you about Bill Christian that Google can't? It turns out, quite a lot because reading about the man and speaking with him in person can be two very different things.

When Bill and I met for this interview, the first impression he gave was that of a man full of positive energy, good health, gratitude and humility. When I joked with him, suggesting that if Cal Marvin was the Godfather of Hockey, then he must be the Godfather 2, he said, "I don't know about that. But I've sure enjoyed my role in hockey in Warroad - building rinks and

coaching youth hockey. Probably the best was coaching the youth hockey. We all enjoyed it – the kids, the parents and myself – and we had a great time doing it."

The stories that exemplify simple kid ingenuity and resourcefulness of hockey's yesteryear in northern Minnesota – before high tech gear and even heated, indoor arenas – are some of the best and Bill's proved just as impressive. "We kind of grew up in an era when hockey was just starting to flourish in Warroad," he began.

One of the first questions I asked was if it was true that he had to share one pair of skates and a stick with his other two brothers. He said, "Well, I didn't take turns with my brothers, but there was a neighbor, Bob Meek, that didn't like to skate as well as I did, so he'd let me use his skates early on."

"Ginny was long gone before I started skating," he said. "He's 10 years older, so he was at UND when I was just ten or eleven years old. I think my first good real pair of skates Ginny bought me." Born, January 29, 1938, Bill was the youngest of the Christian Brothers trio. Gordon, "Ginny," was most well-known for playing on UND's first-ever hockey team and for playing on the 1956 U.S. Olympic team which earned the United States a silver medal.

His other brother, Roger, was only two years his senior. Together the duo were tight, more like "friends than brothers," as Bill described their relationship; growing up and living their lives with the other always by his side – the Christian Brothers – as the world came to know them.

They played hockey on the river when the conditions were right, or else, in the street. "We played a lot of boot hockey. At that time there was no pavement so the roads had a nice coating of snow and ice on them. And there wasn't any traffic because we were a pretty small community," Bill said.

His father, Ed Christian was, in fact, one of the leaders and the head carpenter on the construction of Warroad's Memorial Arena, the town's first indoor rink. Bill recalled, "A very primitive venue – but it was still so much better than being outside in the cold. Even though our rink wasn't heated it was still quite comfortable for us."

While pucks are a dime a dozen today, in Bill's time, only a few kids had one – and it was usually only one. "There wasn't any sports store to go to down the street or any hockey store," Bill explained. "We'd lose a puck and we'd make sure we found it. And if you found one, you couldn't just put it in your pocket; you had to put it back on the ice. Whoever had the puck had to stay until the others wanted to go home; they had to wait.

"We tried to make sticks," Bill added. "We'd watch the Warroad Lakers play and then we'd scramble and get the broken sticks, take 'em home and piece them together and glue them. Take a Campbell's soup can and put the tin around them. We didn't have the \$300 and \$400 sticks. We had to make do with whatever we could find. I don't think we ever had a brand new stick until we got into high school."

Although most of the hockey the Christian brothers played was impromptu, all that practice – even if it was just on the road or the river with a revamped Lakers stick, borrowed skates and a neighbor's puck – all paid off.

From there, Bill accrued a life-time of achievements and accolades. He was MVP in the 1952 MN State Pee Wee Tournament, and he helped Warroad finish second in the 1953 State High School Hockey Championship. He played for five national teams, including two Olympic teams and a very brief stint with the Seattle Totems, about which he said, with a chuckle, "I got a little money for playing; the first time in my life."

But if you ask him what his favorite memories are looking back on his life, it's not about the statistics, although the wins were important, it's about the relationships and a simple love for the game.

"We certainly didn't play because we thought we were going to get a college or NHL contract or anything," Bill continued. "We played because we loved the game and liked to play it and so any chance we had ice, we grabbed the chance and grabbed our skates."

His greatest memory of the 1960 Olympics was, of course, scoring the winning goal against the Soviets which earned the United States its first gold in men's hockey. But his favorite memory was when the team received their medals. "Scoring the winning goal against the Russians was a great memory but really the whole thing is a team effort. When we got our medals – that was the fondest memory. That's when we finally realized we've actually won a gold medal." Bill went on to explain that in those days they didn't go up individually to receive their medals. Instead, the captain received the medals, unceremoniously tucked away in little boxes, on behalf of the team. "As soon as he came down, he threw us our medals," Bill said, laughing.

About the magic of the 1960 team, Bill explained that it came down to three things: confidence, condition, and Jack McCartan. "We outplayed them in the third period which is unusual for a Russian team. Most of the teams dominate the third period. We had Jack McCartan in the goal. In the Canadian game, he was the one who basically won the game for us. You have to have good goaltending. And another thing, it's easier to play at home than it is to play in Europe."

With the Warroad Lakers, he enjoyed twenty-three years of playing with the older guys he admired and watched growing up, as well as the younger ones who came after him, including both of his sons, Eddie and David. About being one of the youngest back when he joined in 1956, he said, "They certainly didn't treat you younger. It was fun playing with them and I got to play quite a few games with Ginny, Danny [McKinnon] and Roger and them. It seemed like we were just one of the boys."



And what was his single favorite hockey moment in his entire life? "Watching the 1980 hockey team," he said, tearing up. Going into the 1980 Olympics, the Americans weren't just considered underdogs, they weren't even considered. This team of American amateurs was ranked only seventh, whereas the Russians, who had won the gold every Olympics since 1960 and had assembled the most powerful Soviet team ever— was the clear favorite.

"I can talk about the 1960 hockey team without getting emotional, but I get quite emotional when I talk about the 1980 team." His son, David, was a member of the "Miracle on Ice" team which earned the U.S. the only other gold medal in Olympic men's hockey history to date.

When asked to explain his hockey success, Bill said, "I just by chance happened to get some opportunities at the right time and tried to do the best I could with the opportunity. We always had a goal to play high school hockey, then Laker hockey, then the national team, then pretty soon we wanted to go to the Olympics with the national team. We just always had something; another step that we wanted to take and we would work for it."

Off the ice, Bill stayed active in hockey by coaching Bantams, being very involved with the Warroad hockey arena board, serving on a couple of national committees and, of course, through Christian Brothers Hockey Sticks.

"The greatest pleasure was the people we met around the world. We got to go to the White House to shake hands with Ronnie Reagan. Our whole hockey life has been just unbelievable. The hockey business, the players, managers, coaches, scouts – it's just unlimited. Got to see the world basically. Got to play a lot all over Europe, Canada; it was just fantastic."

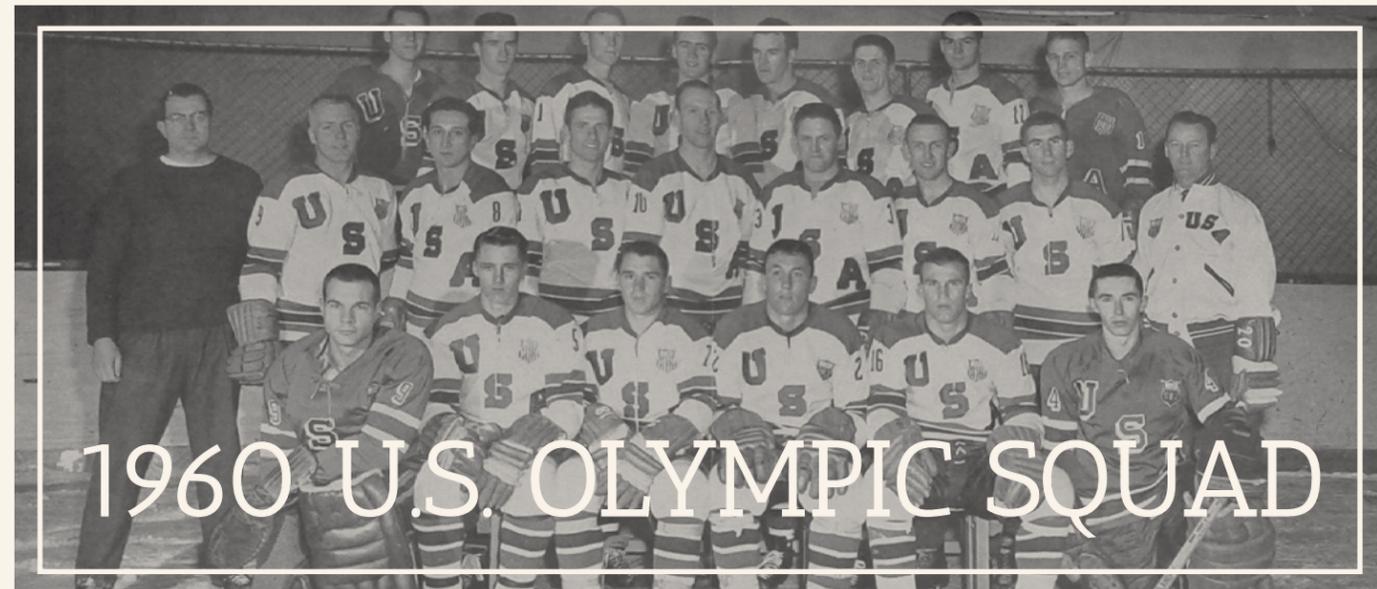
His days in retirement are spent mostly recreating in Naples, Florida where he now resides. He stays fit by rollerblading, and enjoys life golfing and dining out with his wife, Carol. With fifty-eight years of marriage behind them, family is the center of their world. Bill and Carol continue to be close with all four of their children even though they all live in Minnesota. "The children are all very successful. Not necessarily lots of wealth, but they're happy in their lives."

In the end, I learned that Bill's hockey legacy wasn't so much about his own accomplishments, but more about passing on the tradition to his son, and now his grandson, Brock Nelson, who currently plays center for the New York Islanders. These days Bill admits that his involvement with hockey is mainly watching Nelson play. "He plays three times a year in Florida. The [Florida] Panthers are only an hour and ten minutes away and [Tampa Bay] Lightning is two and a half hours, so when he comes down we'll have dinner with him the night before then watch the game."

Like any grandfather, he's hopeful that Brock will make either the 2018 or 2022 Olympic team and believes that the U.S. has a good chance of winning the gold again in the upcoming games, making that a nice hat trick of gold medals for the Christian family.

When I ventured to suggest a Christian legacy, Bill simply said, "Well, you know, we're really rather quite humble people, so we don't per se pat ourselves on the back. I'm very proud of it, but really, I don't think about it all the time. We grew up with it, lived it, and it's been a great ride."

That may be hard to imagine, but there you have it. Take away the fanfare, and the bottom line is a family legacy of love for each other, some God-given talent, a passion for the game and a community that loved hockey right along with them.



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A GOOD HOME COOKED MEAL

Northern Minnesota Style

Tater Tot Hot Dish

Recipe makes 6-8 servings

Ingredients

1 lb. ground beef
1 package of tater tots
2 10 oz cans of cream of mushroom soup
1 bag of frozen mixed vegetables
1 cup of milk
1 package of shredded cheese
salt & pepper to taste

Directions

Preheat oven to 375°F. Brown the ground beef and drain grease. Mix together beef, mushroom soup, mixed vegetables, milk, cheese (however much you want), salt and pepper. Spread the mixture into an ungreased pan. Arrange a layer of tater tots on top and sprinkle with cheese (optional). Bake at 375°F for 45min or until the tater tots are golden brown.



Norwegian Lefse

Recipe makes 8 large servings

Ingredients

1 lb. all-purpose potatoes
1/4 cup unsalted butter, room temp.
1/4 cup heavy cream
salt to taste
1-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
choice of toppings (butter and sugar are suggested)

Directions

Peel potatoes and cut into chunks, place in small sauce pan and cover with cold water. Over medium-high heat, bring the water and potatoes to a gentle boil. Cook until the potatoes are soft. Drain and place in mixing bowl. Mash potatoes. Mix butter into potatoes. Add cream and salt. Keep mixing until butter and cream are absorbed. Place potatoes into a container and place into fridge overnight. Mix the potatoes with 1 cup flour. First roll into a ball, then roll dough so it's long and thick. Then divided into 8 portions (10-12"). Roll each portion back into a ball. Then, roll each ball into a thin circle (use flour when rolling dough). Lay dough in a cast iron skillet on medium-high heat. Cook for 1-2 min. on each side until speckled with golden brown spots. Transfer lefse to plate and continue with the remaining dough. Keep lefse warm by placing a dishtowel over the top of the cooked ones. Top with desired toppings.



Juicy Lucy Burger

Recipe makes 4 servings

Ingredients

1-1/2 lbs. ground beef
1 Tbls worcestershire sauce
3/4 tsp garlic salt
1 tsp black pepper
slices of american cheese
hamburger buns

Directions

Combine ground beef, worcestershire sauce, garlic salt, and pepper in large bowl; mix well. Form 8, thin patties. Cut each slice of cheese into 4 equal pieces. Stack cheese and place inbetween 2 thin patties. Tightly pinch edges together to seal the cheese inside. Repeat for all patties. Cook burgers until desired. Place burgers on hamburger buns.

Fried Walleye

Recipe makes 4 servings

Ingredients

4 walleye fillets
2 eggs, beaten
1/2 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 tsp garlic powder
pinch of salt
1/2 tsp ground black pepper
2 cups crushed saltine crackers
vegetable oil for frying
1 lemon, cut into wedges

Directions

Make sure all bones and skin have been removed from fillets. Cut into smaller pieces if desired. Beat eggs in small bowl, set aside. Combine flour, garlic powder, salt, and pepper in another bowl. Pour cracker crumbs into a third bowl. Heat vegetable oil in a deep-fryer or large cast iron skillet at 375°F. Dip the fillets into the flour mix, then the eggs, and then the cracker crumbs. Carefully place the fillets into the oil. Cook until browned, approx. 3 min. per side. Transfer to paper towel lined plate. Repeat and serve with fresh lemon wedges.



Uff-da Taco

Recipe makes 4 servings

Ingredients

1 loaf white bread dough
1 tbsp oil
taco meat
desired taco toppings

Directions

Thaw dough. Smear with 1 tbsp vegetable oil. Let rise, covered with a breathable cloth, until it's double in size. Punch dough down and slice into 4 equal portions. Heat oil as hot as possible. Pat dough into a circle about 1/4" thick. Fry in hot oil, turning both sides until browned. Drain on paper towel. Top with desired taco toppings.



photo courtesy from recipehubs.com



courtesy of Sportsman's Lodge



courtesy of Bill Lindner Photography

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courtesy of Izzy's Ice Fishing



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SNOWMOBILING

A big lake, big forests and vast prairies provide the perfect setting for snowmobiling! Trails open December 1st with over **300 miles of marked and groomed trails** within Roseau County maintained by a local non-profit organization, the Roseau County Trailblazers. The main "open" country trails connect all the towns within the county. These trails also connect with the wilderness trails of **Beltrami Island State Forest** and the EDA Trails in **Lost River State Forest** as well as the trails in **Kittson County** on the west and **Lake of the Woods County** trails on the east. The group also organizes fun days and group rides. The **Northwest Angle Edge Riders** groom **132 miles** of beautiful land trails covering the Northwest Angle and Islands, as well as lake trails which will take you on a scenic trip or connect you to **Warroad, Baudette, or Canadian trail systems**. This group also hosts the annual Snow Rally in March. For more information, visit roseaucountytrailblazers.com or nwaedgeriders.org or find them on Facebook.

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race-event-schedule

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March 5th and 6th Roseau, MN
www.kcprowest.net

NW ANGLE EDGE RIDERS RALLY
Northwest Angle, March
www.nwaedgeriders.org

SKI / SNOWSHOE / HIKE

Zippel Bay State Park, located 10 miles northeast of Williams maintains over 12 miles of groomed ski trails. Hayes Lake State Park, 30 miles south of Warroad, maintains 9 miles of classic track and skate ski. Closer to town, visitors can enjoy the Warroad School Forest with shorter groomed trails. Head north of Warroad on 313, go west 1.5 miles on Cty Rd 13. A parking lot is on the north side.

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BANTAM A
Dec. 16-17-18, 2016

12U & 10UA
Jan. 13-14-15, 2017

PEE WEE A
Jan. 27-28-29, 2017

SQUIRT B
Feb. 3-4-5, 2017

SQUIRT A
Feb. 10-11-12, 2017

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(218) 386-2371

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(218) 386-2371

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(218) 386-2025

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Warroad Public Library
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(218) 386-1283

Warroad Heritage Center and Museum
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(218) 386-2500

Wm. S. Marvin Training and Visitor Center
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(218) 386-1000

Sunset Lodge
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Oak Island
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Cooler temperatures and gorgeous autumn foliage make for an ideal fall getaway. **Camping** and **atv riding** are still abundant in the forest. **Hunting** season is in full swing as folks head out for bird and geese. Find family fun at the

corn maze, and great treasures and gift ideas at the many **craft and vendor shows** that complement hunting season. Put your **fat tire biking** skills to the test in the **Bushcraft Bike Ultra**. Fishing is always good any time of year.

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EVERLASTING SKY

in the land of everlasting happiness

by Jill Swenson

Gaagige-giizhig. Kakaygeesick. "Everlasting Sky" in Ojibwe.

HE LIVED IN WARROAD for 124 years and never spoke a word of English. Yet everyone in town knew his name. Born almost two decades before the Civil War, Kakaygeesick welcomed the first white settlers who built the town of Warroad at the end of the nineteenth century and he outlived most of them and their children. Kakaygeesick never gave up his traditional ways, his language, or his land.

In a *wikoum* along the shores of Lake of the Woods in 1844, Kakaygeesick was born when the geese returned from the south and the ice receded to the north. Warroad then was one of the largest Chippewa villages on Lake of the Woods. Fort St. Charles had long been abandoned by the French. The long and furious wars fought between the Lakota and the Ojibwe came to an end shortly before Kakaygeesick's birth and the town took its name from its place in indigenous history: "War-road."

His mother was May-Wash-Kah-Seke and his father, born in 1795, was a powerful chief who led the Kah Bay Kah Nong band. They summered on Muskeg Bay, then moved north to Buffalo Point where they hunted in the fall and then wintered. French fur traders and missionaries lived peaceably among them.

When the border between the U.S. and Canada was established along the forty-ninth parallel west of the Mississippi, the source of the mighty river had not yet been found near Itasca. It wasn't until 1824 when the United States government surveyed this remote wilderness area that official boundary lines were drawn across Lake of the Woods. The new border created the Northwest Angle, but it split apart Kakaygeesick's family and homeland.

"When they created their border between Canada and the U.S., they took a knife and split me in two," Chief Aye Ash A Wash told his son Kakaygeesick, who retold this story many times to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The Chief would pretend to stab a hunting knife into his heart and slash it down his torso ripping him in two. Great-grandson Donald Kakaygeesick explained the rift created by the new border. Canada recognized the chief's status as First Nation but on this side of the border his sovereignty was ignored.

Chief Aye Ash A Wash attended negotiations held at the Northwest Angle in 1873. There he signed Treaty #3, which ceded a vast tract of

Ojibwe territory north and west of Lake of the Woods to Queen Victoria, who established the province of Manitoba. The ceremonial pipe he brought to Treaty #3 negotiations disappeared in the 1950s but a few years ago it was returned to the rightful heirs thanks to a photograph of Kakaygeesick holding the sacred pipe found on Facebook.

Kakaygeesick became a trapper, fisherman, hunter, husband, father, guide, and spiritual leader. White people called him a "medicine man." He followed the Way of the Heart, the traditional and secretive "Medicine Society" of the Ojibwe. Spirits guide them through life and Midewin initiate their practitioners and rank them by degree. Much like an apprenticeship or academic degree program, a Midewin practitioner cannot advance to the next level until completing required tasks and gaining the knowledge and wisdom required to advance to the next degree. Kakaygeesick faced many tests and became a Grand Midewin.

In January 1891, a rumor that Indians near Warroad planned to go on the warpath caused many Scandinavian immigrants to flee their homes and farmsteads, leaving behind their livestock without food or water. Through deep snow, Kakaygeesick trekked to these abandoned homesteads and tended the animals in the sheds and barns until the families returned a few weeks later. Only a couple weeks before, on December 29, 1890, whites' fears of an Indian uprising on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in the state of South Dakota led to the Wounded Knee Massacre. An estimated 300 Lakota died when the 7th Cavalry indiscriminately opened fire due to a scuffle over a rifle held by a deaf tribesman escalated. Kakaygeesick and the Kah Bay Kah Nong band, however, had given no cause for white homesteaders to worry about an attack, and the white settlers had not seized Kakaygeesick's land forcing him to relocate to the reservation nor deprived him of winter rations.

Then the Canadians built the Kenora Dam in 1898. They flooded Lake of the Woods and

eliminated thousands of acres of wild rice habitat. Kakaygeesick continued to live near his trap lines north of the mouth of the Warroad River until 1905 when the commercial fisheries, moved in forcing him to relocate south of the river. Despite efforts to relocate Indians to reservations, Kakaygeesick would not leave Muskeg Bay.

In 1905, President Roosevelt agreed to make allotments to Chief Aye Ash A Wash's three sons. Allotment #3 went to Kakaygeesick but he had to wait nearly a decade before the government sent him the paper deed. Kakaygeesick waited and worried. In the meantime, Swedes settled along Willow Creek. A lumber mill and the railroad brought more white settlers. Warroad grew.

The sudden death in 1907 of Kakaygeesick's wife and daughter from tuberculosis left him bereft. Stricken with grief, he was sent to Fergus Falls State Hospital to recuperate in 1909.

Six weeks later, the hospital released him with nothing more than a sandwich in a paper sack. He walked the 220 miles back to Warroad and there he stayed, keeping his traditional ways.

He married Anna Taydahgwasheke and they had a daughter, Mary, and a son, John. Warroad continued to grow and expand around Kakaygeesick who continued to walk his trap lines and fish as he had always done. People watched where he walked in his *mksins* to know when it was safe enough to cross the river on the ice.

The mills, lumber yards, and railroads brought the industrial revolution to Roseau County but Kakaygeesick remained self-sufficient as a hunter, trapper, and fishing guide. John, his son, learned the secrets of the lake from his father and went to work as a steamboat pilot. John was a quick study and could steer a fishing ves-

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Daniel Rain Cloud and Tom Thunder, chanted and then ceremoniously passed around platters of food, including wild rice and venison, to give Kakaygeesick a good sendoff to *Giizhigong*, the land of everlasting happiness.

The Kakaygeesick family continues to carry on his spiritual legacy. Robert Kakaygeesick, Jr., is a renowned artist whose paintings have been exhibited in art galleries across the US and Canada. He also painted magnificent murals for the Warroad Public Schools that are enjoyed on a daily basis.

His brother, Donald, is also an artist. He designed the Warroad Warrior logo for the public high school. Their sister, Karen Kakaygeesick, is an internationally recognized basket-maker whose work is on permanent exhibition at the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul, MN.

Kakaygeesick lived where the Seven

sel from Warroad to Kenora in the dark. He married and had a son, Robert who became a warrior during WWII. Robert served in the Battle of the Bulge and earned a Purple Heart. Kakaygeesick prayed for his grandson to return home from Germany, which he safely did.

In 1964 when it became impossible to care for Kakaygeesick out on Muskeg Bay, Dr. Homer Ross admitted him to the Warroad Hospital and Nursing Home. When he diagnosed Kakaygeesick's leg with gangrene, Dr. Ross recommended amputation. Kakaygeesick refused and he recovered with many healing visits from his great-grandchildren.

Kakaygeesick lived through the Indian Wars between Lakota and Ojibwe during his early years, the Civil War, the U.S.-Indian Wars, the arrival of white settlers, WWI and II, Korea and into the Vietnam War. He still had his land and his language.

When he died at the age of 124 on December 6, 1968, Kakaygeesick made headlines in the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* and the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*. The entire community turned out for a public funeral service in the Warroad High School auditorium. Before it began, two elder members of the Midewin Society,

Clans Casino is today and an authentic reproduction of Kakaygeesick's *wikoum* can be seen in the Warroad Heritage Center along with many other historical artifacts and art related to his life and legend.

The Grand Midewin is buried next to the spirit houses of his family near the river on private property off Riverdale Drive. Although the burial grounds are on private property, public viewing and visitation is allowed. The location is marked on the map provided on page 34.

** Cocageesick. KeeKeeKahKeeJick. KahKahGezhig. It has been spelled many ways because there is no standard writing system to represent the many dialects of Ojibwe. The language is endangered, with fewer than one thousand first-language speakers left in the U.S. The largest number of those are Red Lake tribal members. Ka-kay-gee-sick trips over the tongue the same way "Mississippi" spills from every Minnesotan's lips. Kakaygeesick. Gaagige-giizhig.*



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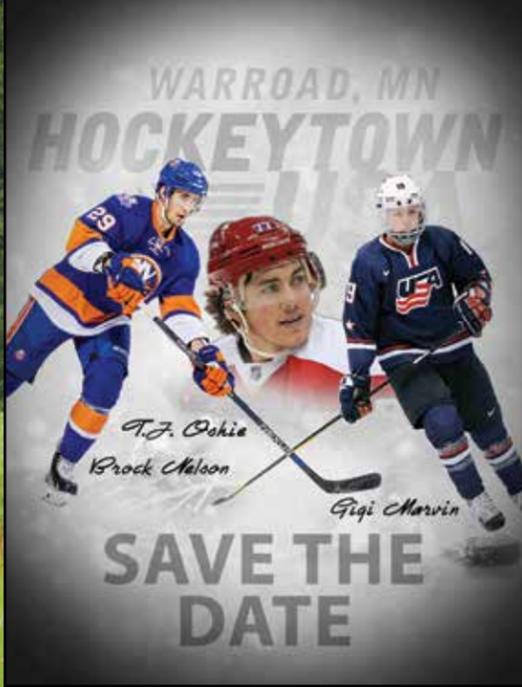
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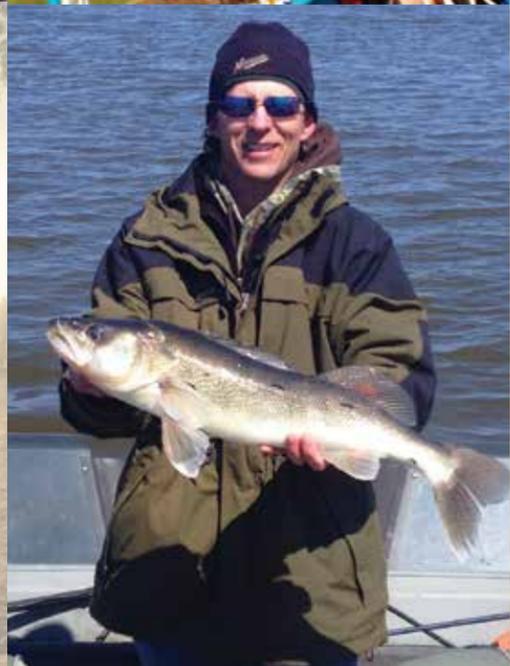
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Despite what the weather does, summer in Warroad begins with getting out on the lake for the fishing opener. Some of our annual summer events include: celebrating the local Native American heritage with a pow wow in June, hosting fundraising golf tournaments, including the celebrity golf tourney, and bringing our community together to commemorate our nation's independence during our 4th of July festivities. We love to get out with our ATVs, bikes or walking sticks to explore Beltrami Island State Forest and enjoy the wildlife and nature while picking blueberries. What would a Warroad summer be without the Yellow Rose 5k? And of course more fishing. We do that all year.



PALSBURG FIRE

forest fire in beltrami island state forest
by Beth Siverhus, photo courtesy of Beth Siverhus

It was a hot, dry afternoon in mid-April, 2015 when the forest fire began. Strong winds reached a smoldering ember deep within a slash pile and flames came to life. Soon the fire was raging out of control through stands of red pine and jack pine, rolling over the tree tops in golden waves. It burned wildly all the rest of the day and into the night before succumbing to the efforts of firefighters and calmer winds. The front of the blaze had also reached a wetland, causing it to further fizzle out. But it was well over a week before all the residual smokes were put out and the incident was over. It was named the "Palsburg Fire" after the Palsburg Forest Road where the fire originated and it burned 4,550 acres within the Beltrami Island State Forest in NW Minnesota.

Once the fire was out, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) quickly assembled a plan to begin salvage logging any harvestable trees that were still standing. They would sell what they could and put the proceeds back into the state forest, planting and planning for the future.

DNR staff also wondered what effect the fire and sudden change in habitat would have on birds. Gretchen Mehmel and Charles Tucker, Red Lake WMA Manager and Assistant Manager respectively, devised a plan to find out. The study area was perfect due to its large size and ease of accessibility, plus it would be the first in the state to look at avian responses to a fire the year of the natural disturbance. It was decided that a point count survey would be used to monitor bird use of the burned area. Point counts are studies conducted under specific guidelines. Each point is marked and entered into a GPS, and these same points are used throughout subsequent study periods for consistency. Survey points must be at least 250 meters apart. Counts are conducted in the early morning, from a half hour before sunrise to about 10:00 a.m., as this is when the breeding males are calling the most. During the 5 minute count time, the surveyor listens and looks for birds and records them on a data sheet. Since most birds are identified by their call, weather conditions must be favorable, winds <10 mph with little or no precipitation, to allow for optimal hearing. One hundred points were

selected where data on bird presence will be surveyed, half the points were located within the fire perimeter and half the points were in adjacent unburned forest. As an experienced birder was needed to perform the counts, that's where I came in.

It was the opportunity of a lifetime. I have been conducting breeding bird surveys for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for years, but have never before been involved in a habitat study like this. So I arranged to take a couple extra days a week off from my job and headed out into the forest to count birds.

Thinking the burn area would be a vast wasteland of black pines and the cut-over areas a charred lifeless prairie, I began surveying on June 2nd in the lush, green points outside of the burn area (the "OUT" points). How exhilarating it was to be out in the woods in early summer listening to the songs of warblers, vireos, flycatchers, and sparrows again!

During the first few days I had been conducting point count surveys outside of the burn area and

because of the charred landscape I wasn't expecting to document many species from within the burned area. When I stopped at the first designated point within the burned area (an "IN" point), my senses were immediately overwhelmed as soon as I got out of the truck and listened. It was five weeks after the forest fire and the burned area was teeming with life. The air had a fresh, earthy aroma tinged with the smoky odor of a lingering campfire. Trees and undergrowth charred coal black contrasted drastically with the bright green of new plant growth springing up from the forest floor. A northern flicker, breast feathers wet from the morning dew, was foraging hungrily for ants. Soft gray mourning doves strutted through the rubble picking at seeds and insects, heads bobbing. American goldfinches hopped from low branches to the ground and back again, their lemon yellow feathers glowing in the morning sunshine. Although loggers were working a mere ¼ mile away, territorial male birds seemed oblivious to the noise and were singing their hearts out, as if trying to out-do the logger's whining saws and rumbling tractor engines. What greatly surprised me was that they were here at all in this altered landscape, so very different than their breeding grounds of the previous summer.

Driving on to the next stop, a flash of color caught my eye, the orangey red coat of a male red crossbill. Cones of the red and jack pine, opened by the heat of the fire, provided an abundant food source for the crossbills, now gorging themselves on the pine nuts in great flocks. The soft "chek" call of a black backed woodpecker was heard nearby, as were the sharper "peek" calls of the hairy and downy woodpeckers, all drawn here by a feast of grubs and beetles residing under the bark of the dead pines.

Visits to the burn on subsequent mornings were full of surprises. Vesper sparrows, normally found in fields and grasslands, were common in the cutovers, now newly transformed open spaces. Eastern bluebirds perched atop slash piles, darting out to catch insects. Brown thrashers and alder flycatchers, normally found in dense

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thickets, sang from singed pines too small to harvest. Killdeer scuttled about like wind-up toys. A western meadowlark belted out its bubbling sweet song, hoping to entice a mate to this new land of plenty. At the edges of the burned forest, scarlet tanagers were easily visible perched in needleless pines and olive-sided flycatchers called from lowland brush, close to where the fire had run its course.

After one season of point count studies in the Palsburg Burn, we have learned how quickly birds adapt to change. I look forward to surveying these points in the years to come, documenting nature's re-birth after a forest fire and discovering which bird species benefit from the burn.



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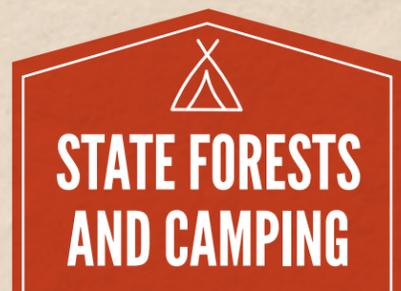
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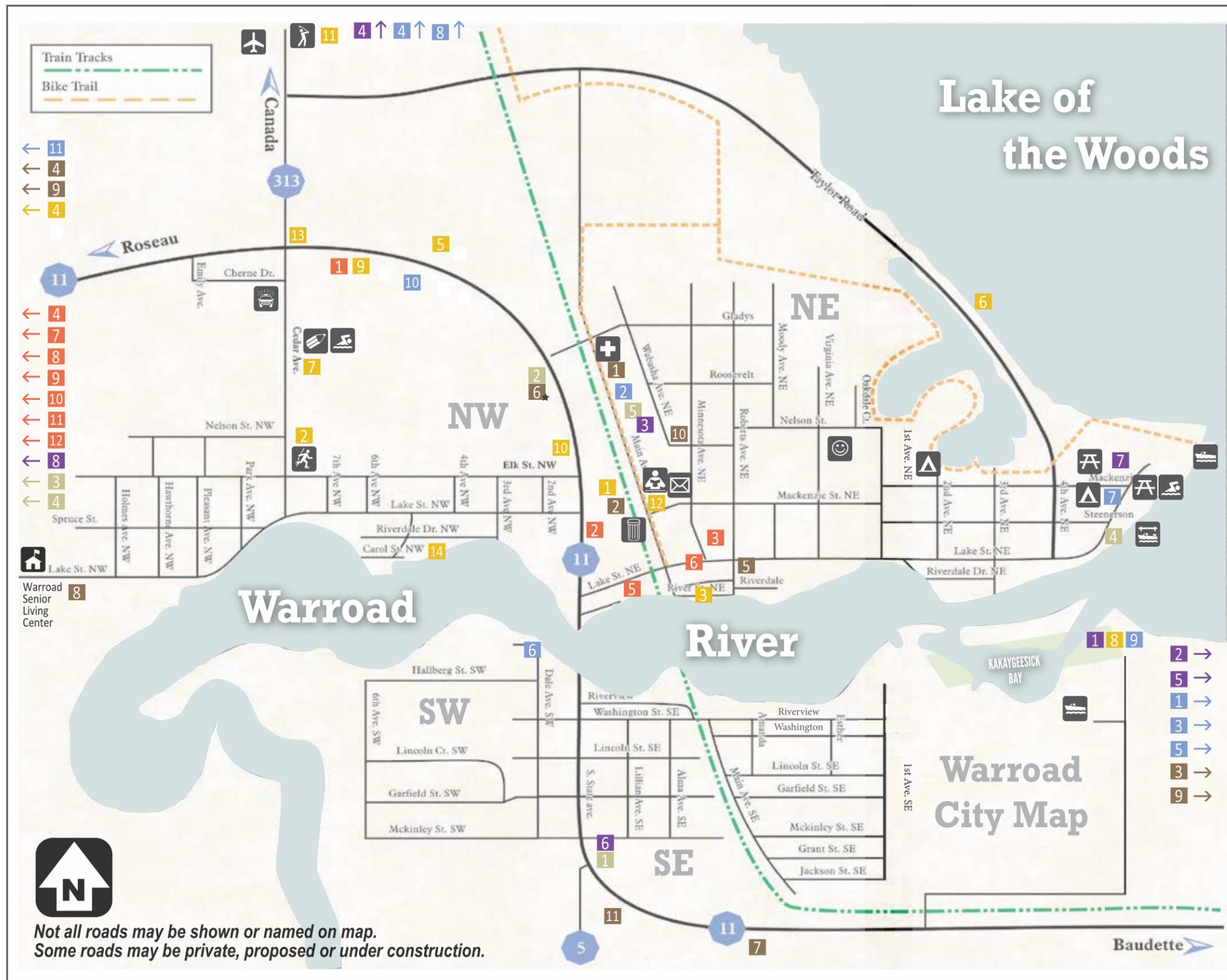
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