



Shorelines

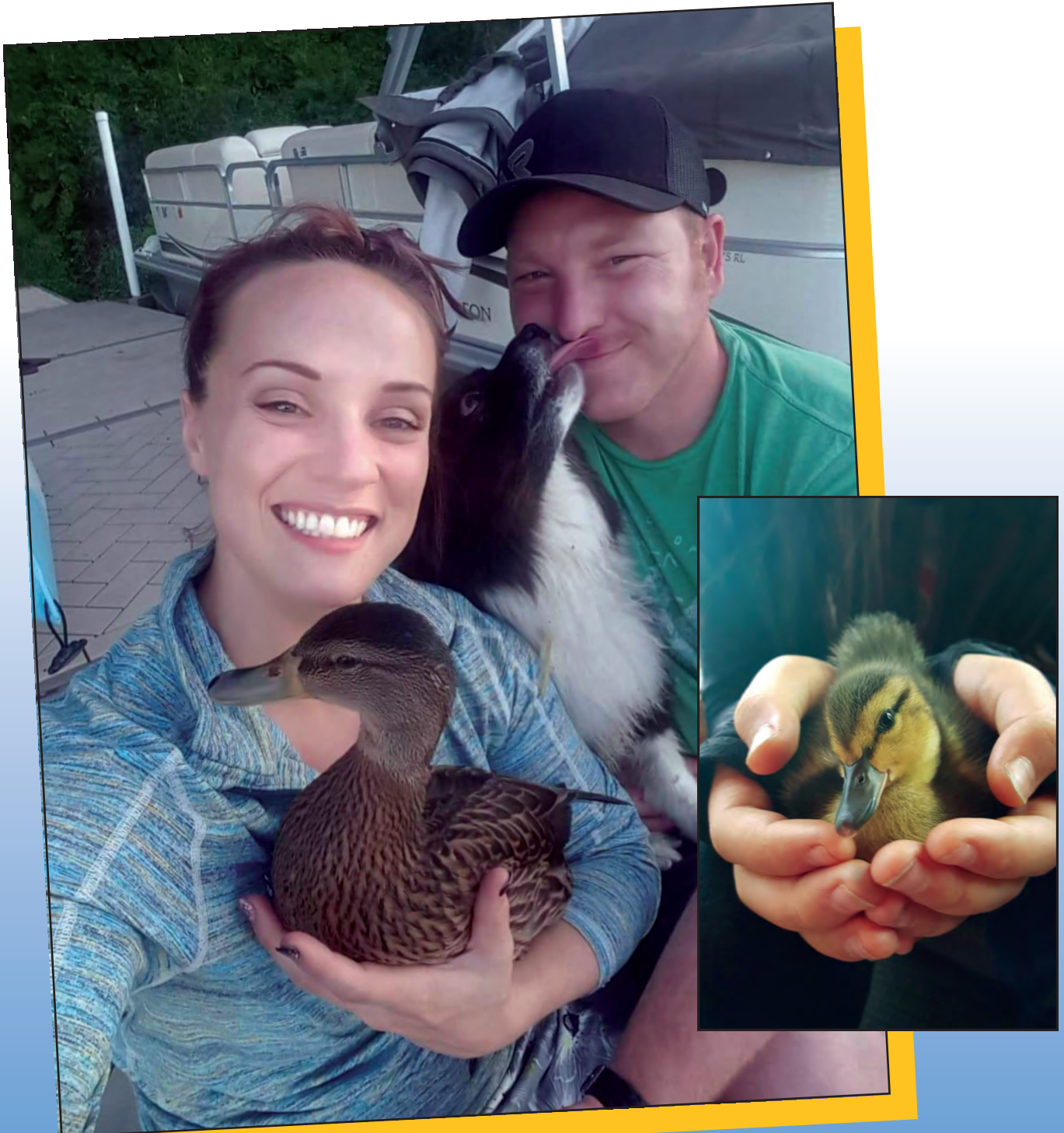
*Published By The Balsam Lake Homeowners' Association
A volunteer, nonprofit organization serving the lake community since 1974.*



JUNE 2021

Member Website:
www.balsamlake.com

BALSAM LAKE HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



On Memorial Day in 2019, Mary and Reg Pelowski's daughter, Megan, and, her fiancé, Matt, were spending the holiday on Balsam Lake. See their story on Page 3.

SAVE THE DATE!

(Due to the current COVID-19 crisis, all of these events could be postponed or cancelled. Look for updates on the BLHA website www.BalsamLake.com and our email blasts.)

Balsam Lake Farmers Market

Starting Friday, May 21, 3 to 5 p.m.

Balsam Lake Invitational Ski Show

Saturday, June 26, 7 p.m. - Bring a chair or blanket to sit in front of Sunnyside Marina. There will be a free-will donation collected during intermission. If you enjoy the show, please bring a few dollars along to donate to this great group.

Balsam Lake Freedom Fest - July 2-4

All Weekend, Softball Tourney at Pine Park

Friday, July 2, 6 p.m., Hot Rod Tractor Pull, Main Street

Saturday, July 3, Dusk, Fireworks, Town Bay

Saturday, July 3, 7 a.m., Freedom Fest 5K

Contact Joey, 715-554-7616

Saturday, July 3, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Craft Fair, Main St.

Saturday, July 3, 3 p.m., BLHA Boat Parade, Lake

Saturday, July 3, 8 p.m.-Midnight, Uncle Chuck

Sunday, July 4, 9 a.m., Vintage Car Show, Main St.

Sunday, July 4, 2 p.m., Parade

Balsam Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District Annual Meeting

Saturday, July 17, 8:30 a.m., Unity High School

Balsam Lake Homeowners' Association Annual Meeting

Saturday, August 14, 9 a.m. Possibly outside at Paradise Landing. Time & options to be determined.

Balsam Lake Invitational Ski Show

Saturday, September 4, 6 p.m. - Bring a chair or blanket to sit in front of Sunnyside Marina.

shorelines

Published and distributed three times a year (June, July, August) to homes adjacent to Balsam Lake, Wisconsin by the Balsam Lake Homeowners' Association, a private, nonprofit volunteer organization supported by membership dues, contributions, and advertising subsidies.

• Sign up for our monthly email blasts at www.balsamlake.com or like us on Facebook: [balsamlake.com](https://www.facebook.com/balsamlake.com)

• To submit an article or photograph: jeanegerman@gmail.com

• Advertising inquiries: www.balsamlake.com or Box 8, Balsam Lake, WI 54810.

Thank you to contributors Andy Anderson, Tom Parnell, Megan Pelowski and Bruce Bildsten.

The BLHA would like to give a huge thanks to Angie, Ryan and their crew at Balsam Lake Hardware for storing and distributing the Balsam Lake Blankets. And a special note of appreciation to Dave Turbenson and Terry Hauer for their input, guidance and help with the blankets.

Make sure you patronize all of Balsam's retailers, restaurants and taverns this summer. We are so thankful for their support.

Editor: Jean Egerman. Layout: Gayle Olson.

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Find out more by visiting our website (www.balsamlakepubliclibrary.org), following us on FB and Instagram or stopping by our library.

Balsam Lake Farmers Market - Bigger & Better!

Every Friday from 3 - 5 p.m. Parking lot of Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church.

Come and support local farmers, artisans, and entrepreneurs. Shop for fresh veggies, honey, maple syrup, annual and perennial flowers, jams, jellies, fresh eggs, shitake and oyster mushrooms.

Anyone who makes or grows something locally is encouraged to participate. Contact Esther Nelson at 715-268-8223 for more information.

With most local festivals cancelled during the summer of 2020, the Balsam Lake Farmers market will be bigger and better than ever!



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THIS IS MEGAN'S STORY

(Continued from Front Page)

"While my fiancé, Matt, and I were walking our dog in a local park with a small pond by our house, a single tiny duckling started swimming straight for us and came right up to Matt. Our dog gave the duckling a lick, and with no other babies or ducks in sight, we took her home and named her Duck Norris. She was ours! We set her up with a heat lamp and dog kennel at night, and during the day she was with us constantly. As she grew, she was allowed to roam the backyard during the day and would only want to come in for naps. At night she would snuggle and sit on Matt's shoulders watching him game. We taught Duck how to forage for bugs and worms in our garden. We bought her feeder minnows and kept her kiddie pool filled so she could learn to fish for herself. When she wasn't napping in the water she was splashing around and nibbling our toes.

Later that summer we paid a visit to my parents on Balsam Lake. Duck had a wonderful time flying, diving and playing with my nieces in the water. She hardly wanted to leave the dock! When the weekend ended Duck made it very clear that she wouldn't be coming with us. She had been my constant companion and made us laugh every day, so I am not embarrassed to say I cried my eyes out.

My baby duck grew up, moved to Wisconsin and is out making new friends (like Angie and Jim). So if you are down in Little Balsam and a duck wants to paddleboard with you or take a nap on your boat, I hope you let her. Duck Norris is loved and just wants to say "Hi."



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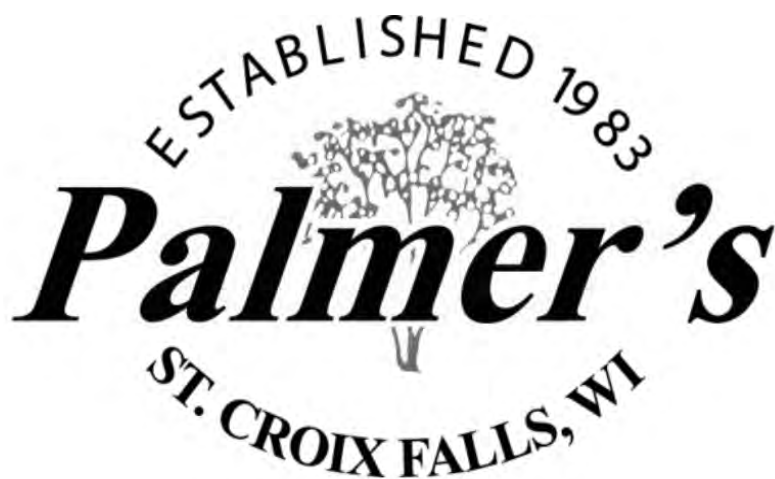
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BALSAM LAKE MAP THROW RAISES OVER \$20,000 FOR COVID RELIEF AND THE BLHA

By Bruce Bildsten

There's going to be a familiar sight in cabins all around Balsam this Summer: A beautiful Balsam Lake Map throw made by the Faribault Woolen Mill. It began as a casual conversation I had with Dave Turbenson, a man who does so much for our lake community. What if we created a Balsam Lake map blanket and the Balsam Lake Homeowners' Association sold them as fundraiser for COVID relief in Polk County? As a board member at the Faribault Woolen Mill, I knew what a great fundraiser a blanket could be. With his typical unbridled enthusiasm, Dave took it to the board and they made it happen. The BLHA was able to raise over \$20,000 for Kinship of Polk County with a smaller portion going to all the good things the BLHA provides for the lake, like our water safety patrol and fireworks.

More than just a fundraiser, the Balsam Lake throw is a true keepsake, made to last for generations. The map was designed by former Balsam cabin owner, Lori Henson.

Crafted from soft merino wool with a touch of cotton, it's perfect draped over a couch, around the firepit or on the boat. The Faribault Woolen Mill is a true American treasure. They began making wool blankets at the end of the Civil War, made millions of blankets for our soldiers



during WWI and WWII and still supply blankets to the US Navy and West Point. Second and third generation craftspeople weave the blankets in the mill's "new" building, built in 1896 on the banks of the Cannon River in Faribault, Minnesota. The mill is the oldest manufacturing company in Minnesota and one of the last true vertical mills left in America. Faribault gets raw wool, dyes it, spins it into yarn, weaves and finishes it all under one roof. The mill provides more than 100 jobs in Faribault and has retail stores at the mill, in Linden Hills in South Minneapolis, and downtown Excelsior.

The BLHA sold 230 of the map throws. And knowing that there will likely be many people who missed the initial order, Jerry and Trish Szykalski, owners of the new Hopsack Goods store in downtown Balsam volunteered to stock an additional thirty and donate the profits back to the BLHA.

Hopsack will be opening in May and will offer, gifts, clothing, home goods, specialty food items and more. ***The BLHA would like to give a huge thanks*** to Angie, Ryan and their crew at Balsam Lake Hardware for storing and distributing the throws. Also, a special thanks to Terry Hauer for coordinating the orders and delivering the throws to the hardware store. Make sure you patronize all of Balsam's retailers, restaurants and taverns this summer. We are so thankful for their support.

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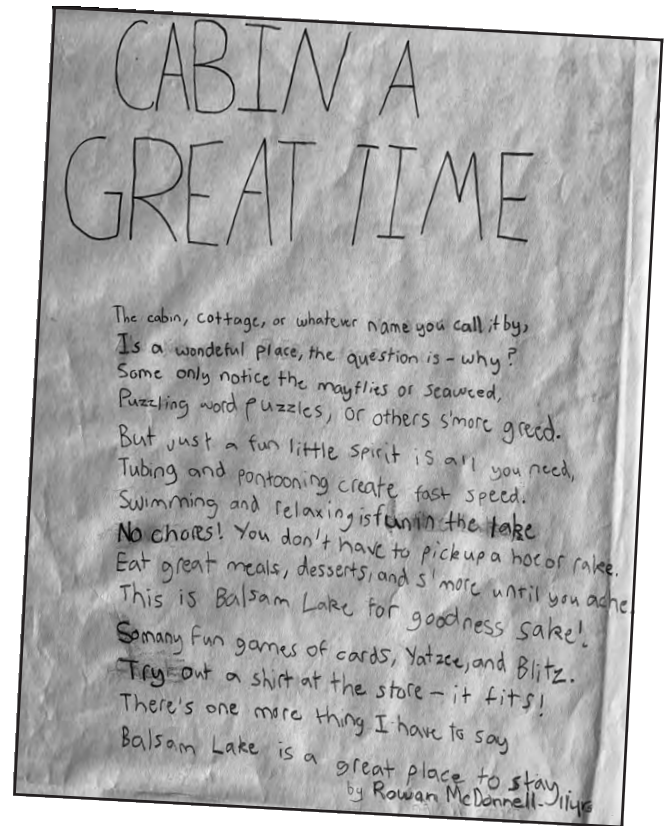
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CABIN; A GREAT TIME

Written by Rowan McDonnell, when he was 11.
Now he has turned 16, and his grandmother,
Sharon Machacek, keeps this poem among her
treasures.

The cabin, cottage, or whatever name you call it by,
Is a wonderful place, the question is - why?
Some only notice the mayflies or seaweed
Puzzling word puzzles, or other s'more greed.
But just a fun little spirit is all you need,
Tubing and pontooning create fast speed.
Swimming and relaxing is fun in the lake.
No chores! You don't have to pick up a hoe or rake.
Eat great meals, desserts, and s'mores until you ache.
This is Balsam Lake for goodness sake!
So many fun games of cards, Yahtzee, and Blitz.
Try out a shirt at the store - it fits!
There's one more thing I have to say.
Balsam Lake is a great place to stay.





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BOATER SAFETY CLASSES

Boater Safety Courses are offered through the Department of Natural Resources. Individuals 10 years of age and older are encouraged to participate in the training. The course is available online at <http://www.gowild.wi.gov>.

Individuals are required to complete the Boat Safety program by age 12 to operate a boat or Personal Watercraft by themselves.



The following is a broad list meant to cover many types of boats and boating trips. This checklist includes both mandatory equipment and recommended equipment which may be good to have on board for safety but may not be required by state law.

Wisconsin Required Equipment Checklist				
	Unpowered Boat	PWC	Boat Less Than 16 FT	Boat 16 FT To Less Than 26 FT
Boater Safety Course Certificate On Board	✓1	✓1	✓1	
Certificate of Number On Board	✓	✓	✓	
Expiration Decals Displayed	✓	✓	✓	
Wearable PFDs: Type I, II, III, or V	✓	✓2	✓3	✓3
Throwable PFD: Type IV				✓
Type B-I Fire Extinguisher		✓	✓	✓
Ignition Safety Switch		✓		
Backfire Flame Arrestor		✓	✓4	✓4
Ventilation System		✓	✓	✓
Muffler		✓	✓	✓
Horn, Whistle, or Bell		✓5	✓5	✓5
Daytime Visual Distress Signals				✓5
Nighttime Visual Distress Signals		N/A	✓5	✓5
Navigation Lights	✓	N/A	✓	✓

Numbers correspond with the chart above.

1. Required for some operators of motorized vessels and PWCs.

2. Those on PWCs must wear a PFD at all times.

3. Those under the age of 13 years must wear a PFD when on federally controlled waters.

4. Required on inboard and stern drives only.

5. Required when operating on federally controlled waters.

Note: Some items are not applicable to personal watercraft (PWCs) because PWCs are not allowed to operate between sunset & sunrise.

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WELCOME NEWS

While many people were quarantining or hibernating, Balsam Lake was preparing for a new season. Along with warmer weather, there is a change in the landscape with new businesses and offerings.

First, congratulations to the Barred Owl on their second anniversary, despite COVID. (Does 2020 count?) In any case, the Barred Owl is a wonderful, relaxing and delightful environment. The food is top notch and the cocktails rock...not to mention the regular entertainers on weekends. (715-485-3192 or <http://thebarredowlwi.com>.)

Next, down the block, the Ledger office has become the Hopsack Goods Store. Owners Jerry and Trish Szykulski offer gifts, clothing, home goods, specialty food items and more. They are the only place in town to find Balsam Lake blankets. Shop early; they volunteered to stock an additional thirty blankets and donate the profits back to the BHLA. (Find them on Facebook at hopsackgoods or online at <http://hpsck.com>).

Across the street (214 Main Street), Viv's Kitchen and Caterer joins the Balsam Lake offerings. Viv's is where you find fresh and delightful food specialties for inside or out. Owner, Donielle Strilzuk, said that in addition to their regular menu, their creamery will be open starting Memorial Day for treats on their beautiful patio. (715-405-3848 or online at <http://vivskitchenandcater.com>).

Keep walking down Main Street to Sunshine Fitness. What a perfect location to fill a perfect need. The previous Nelton/Anderson building (aka Drug store, post office with law offices upstairs) at 314 Main Street has just what is needed to keep you fit and happy. Access to the space and equipment is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, any time of year. (888-722-1968 or info@sunshine-fitness.com).

It's been said that a Brewery will be breaking ground soon with hops and hopes of being open this fall Balsam Lake Brewery & Market. And don't forget right around the corner is K.J.'s New North, which remains a crowd pleaser.

Finally, for those who thought Paradise was lost, there is no reason to worry. The Balsam Lake Lodge is emerging in this historic location. The restaurant has been revamping the menu, training staff and installing new equipment for the mid-April opening. While there has been talk of a hotel for years, part of this historic location has evolved into 21st century living and lifestyle. (For more information, call 715-485-3210).

Welcome to the lake everyone!

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THE HISTORY OF BALSAM LAKE (OR AT LEAST OBSERVATIONS OF MY LITTLE CORNER OF IT)

By Andy Anderson



First off, as I am about to prove without a shadow of a doubt, that I am NOT a writer. For the most part, I've been a public speaker most of my life, so I write like I talk. Extra commas, italicized words (and way too many incorrectly placed parenthesis) to emulate my voice inflection as if I were reading this aloud. When I was in radio, I READ the news. Never wrote it. I also tend to "mansplain" things too much. Feel free to read this in Morgan Freeman or Sam Elliot's voice. I am...

Growing up, I thought that I had lived in Balsam Lake for decades, despite not being decades old at the time. I've noticed through the years that time speeds up. Elementary school took 15 years, High School about 7, my 4-year Military hitch about 5 and the last 38 years took only 4 years. I only lived in B.L. for 15 years. The shoes that I am wearing are older than that. It really hit me when I had moved out on my own and was stationed in Colorado Springs. I asked my

Mom to send me all my Christmas ornaments for my 1st solo tree. A family tradition was to do an ornament exchange each year. In my mind, I should have had two UPS deliveries worth of ornaments. A shoe box arrived with more protective stuffing than ornaments. When questioned, my mom pointed out that I was only 18, therefore there were only 18 ornaments...

For me, Balsam Lake was founded in about 1967-1970. We lived in a home we rented from Doris McKenzie. Dad (Roger Anderson) started his new job working for the Village Garage. My Mom (Patricia Anderson) taught 1st grade in Milltown. That saved me from any freshman hazing in high school as the seniors all had Mom as their teacher and had a good experience, so they left me alone. She eventually became the K-12 librarian for Unity. We lived in Wanderoos until 1969, and she commuted to Milltown but dropped me off in Balsam Lake, where I stayed with Rosie and Al Anderson as well as Duane and Dorene Hendrickson while she taught.

If I could travel back in time to chat with people that I grew up with, it would be with people that invited me into their living rooms while I was collecting for my newspaper route, or if it was inclement weather during deliveries. I have so many more questions at this age. I knew that Jim Moore was a retired Polk County Sheriff – but I didn't know Katherine Moore was the 1st woman sheriff in the state! They rotated the post as you could only be a sheriff for two years at a time. To me, she was the town librarian – but I also thought that was a more important job than sheriff anyway! And Helen and Millard Freeman. They would give me a cup of cocoa or ice water in their "Mansion." He let me use his rifle (a giant, octagon barrel .30/30) for my 1st deer season. It was bigger than me. Little did I know that Helen was the Balsam Lake historian, and a Tuttle. When I was that age, what did I care about history? Darn.

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PAVING THE PATH TO WISCONSIN

By Tom Parnell

I am fascinated by history and the stories that make it come alive. So naturally the article in last summer's Shoreline, "1000 miles to Polk County" piqued my interest. It highlighted Richard Pearson, one of Polk county's original settlers who traveled 1000 miles from Quebec, Canada to our lake area.

The Pearson family history is similar to many others of the time including my own, though they settled a little further down the Apple river. The Parent, Parnell and Belisle families all came from the same area in Canada staking claims on their farms at the mouth of the Apple river and in the Star Prairie area in 1850 and 1851.

But why would so many families travel such a great distance? In the early and mid-1800's the opportunities for employment and larger parcels of land were limited in the St. Lawrence River area of Quebec where they lived. The English rulers restricted the families to small parcels (40 acres) of land making it difficult to maintain their families. It was also hard to find jobs in the area because of the new arrivals from Europe. They had heard stories of the rivers, prairies and massive tree stands to be harvested. The growing opportunities of employment and farmland in this haven of "L'ouisconsin" offered these men and their families a chance for a bright future in the "west."

At this time the United States and Canadian governments were involved with immigration companies organizing consignments and expeditions to encourage the settlement of areas in the west. These expeditions typically started on the Great Lakes waterways as the beginning of their routes to the west. These trips were typically long and dangerous and sometimes taking as long as three months for those men and women reaching for their dreams.

With the development of the fur trade in the 1700's and early 1800's the Brule-St. Croix river route was well known to these Canadians. So this was the route that many of the early settlers took as they traveled down the St. Croix to the area. Later the routes were generally from the Fox River in Green Bay or the Illinois River from Chicago. Eventually they worked their way to the Mississippi and up to the St Croix to the Apple River, Osceola and St. Croix Falls area.



Back row Left to right: Fred Parnell Sr., Louis Parnell, Desire Paquin, Arahbel Parnell, Charles Mars, Tom Haversuit.
Front: Frank Rivard, Abe Mars, Edward Parnell.

Logging boomed with the influx of the new settlers. The first lumber mill was established on the St. Croix river 15 miles north of Stillwater in 1836, and in 1840 a mill was established further up the river in St. Croix Falls. By 1850 there were 15 mills along the St. Croix providing many jobs at the mills and in the logging camps. Soon after there were two mills on the Apple River and of course the Lenroot mill on the Balsam Branch. These mills and logging camps offered a source of income for many of these hard-working men as they established their homesteads and developed their farms. During this time the Federal government would allow settlers to place a claim on up to 120 acres. The only stipulation for full ownership was that the settlers had to live on the land for five years and to show

improvements to their parcel.

The U.S. Homestead Act was passed in 1862 with the goal of accelerating the settlement of lands in Polk county and all over the west. Many of the original French Canadian settlers would continue to send for their families in the coming decades, joining the early Swedish, Norwegian, Danish and German families in the area.

The history of the area is that of the stories of these early families. The Pearson, Parent, Parnell, Belisle families and perhaps yours all traveled great distances and worked hard to chase their dreams.

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