Thank you to all contributors to this issue: Helen Hendrickson, Janis Hooey, Todd Lindahl, Jody Anderson, Mary Ann Sironen and Phil Strom. Special thanks to resident Diane Daniels for this month’s masthead. Call the editor (525-0103) if you wish to volunteer to do the July or September Newsletter masthead! We need your artwork!

NSCS Community Celebration, Local History Fair, Grandparent’s Day. 12:30-2:30pm on Friday, May 16th. Visit classrooms, hear the news, refreshments.

North Shore Community School. See pages 6 and 7 for NSCS news. Chair Phil Strom has an article on school growth and the new temporary classrooms for next year.

New Message Board on the Township Website. You can post your message on the Township website. It is a fine way to communicate events, sales, greetings, etc. Teenagers could advertise services like mowing lawns or yard work. See www.duluthtownship.org and click on “messages”. Thanks to the Township’s webmaster, Linda Holliday. Note you can also send emails to Township officials from the website.

Cemetery Clean-up Day May 17th 9 to noon. Please come to help tidy up our Township Cemetery for spring and the Memorial Day ceremony on May 26th. Gloves and a rake would be helpful. Make it a family volunteering event!

Clifton 4-H Club needs adult/s willing to be a leader(s). Please contact Rachel Edblom t 525-1276.

Soccer Sign-up: Did you miss North Shore Community School’s AYSA Lower Division Soccer Sign Up? It is not too late! Kids with birthdays August 1, 1997 to July 31 1991 are able to play Lower Division Soccer. Call Laurie Myrdal for information (525-6255).

Suggested Spring Clean-up Activity: When you are out walking, carry a plastic bag and pick up cans and paper litter along your road. Help keep our Township litter free…and thanks to those who already do this!

Town Election Outcome. Jeff Cook was re-elected to a 3-year term on the Town Board of Supervisors. Other members of the Board are chair Bruce Aho, Steve Dahl, George Sundstrom and Corlis West. 53 residents voted.

SURVEY NOTICE
For the next 4 to 5 months, crews from the St. Louis Surveyor’s Office, in performance of their duties, may be seen on the roads or off the road in remote locations. As part of their required duties, they need to locate and verify the position of all the Government Corners.
If access to a Government Corner requires the crossing of private land, the County Surveyor’s Office will attempt to contact property owners via contact at their residence or by phone. If contact was not made, a small note will be left on their door notifying them that we passed through.
It is our hope that the Township personnel will understand our need to walk along property lines to access some Government Corners and that they will proceed with caution on the roadways when our crews are present.

For more detailed information, see public notice: Minnesota’s Lake Superior Coastal Assistance Grants Program (725-5039).

A GREAT WAY TO MEET SOME OF YOUR NEIGHBORS!
At noon on the first Wednesday of every month, come to the Duluth Town Hall for lunch and entertainment.
The group is called “Homesteaders” and it includes folks of any age who live in and around our Township. It’s a great place to find out about the community and meet new friends. You are welcome to attend. If you have questions, call Helen Hendrickson.
The next meeting is May 7th, 12:30pm.

South Recycling Building has been moved 200 feet back on the property at McGuade and the Scenic Drive. It is open for use at regular hours.

Township web site use: 2,842 requests in February; 21,542 in March; and 2,708 by mid-April.
Volunteer Fire/First Responder Auxiliary  
Jody Anderson

The Auxiliary is planning a community-wide Fall Harvest Festival Dinner for October 11th 5-8pm. Circle the date on your Clifton Volunteer Fire Department calendar! First responders recently completed a refresher course to update their skills. Seven now have training.

Township Police Department  
Shawn Padden, Chief

A new police vehicle will arrive shortly. The old vehicle has been sold and funds will be used from the vehicle escrow account that has been accumulating.

We have had an increase in dumping garbage, junk and furniture in roadside ditches, on Stony Point, and at our Recycling Centers. You can help by notifying the police if you see someone doing this...a license number or description would help. Leave a message at the Town Hall (525-5705) or 911 for urgent calls.

Note that our Police Department will be doing increased traffic checking along the shore, in response to requests from Township residents. In June there will be an automated speed trailer posted along the road. Please observe the speed limits, keep our Scenic Byway safe and enjoyable.

Construction crews will be working at several points along North Shore Scenic Drive (sewer line, McCouade harbor). Slow down for them.

Duluth Township has had an increased number of dog complaints. The rules are that dogs can’t run uncontrolled off the owner’s property. If un-tethered dogs are caught off the owner’s property then can be taken to the animal harbor. Slow down for them.

The Fire Department has undergone its ISO rating process and we should hear soon whether our rating is improved from its current 9 to an 8! This will be information you will want to give to your homeowner’s insurance agent to lower your rates.

The Homesteaders  
Helen Hendrickson

May 7th, Wednesday, 12:30pm the Homesteaders will be entertained by Swede Anderson’s German Band. June 4th, Wednesday, 12:30pm, the Homesteaders will meet and Dale Rogers will present a musical program. July 2nd, Wednesday, 12:30pm, the annual Homesteader picnic and bingo.

Coming up: Riverboat trip Aug 7, Thunderbird Trip Sept. Everyone is welcome. For information, call 525-4154.

Property Tax Assessments

On April 16th the Township conducted its annual Board of Review to hear resident’s concerns about the relative fairness of their property assessment for 2004. Some 15 people showed up and several letters were sent in for consideration. The Township was among those areas that had a State-mandated assessment equalization increase. If you have questions, call the St Louis County Assessor’s Office 726-2304. A booklet is available at the Town Hall on the appeal process.

11 Days on Stony Point  
Todd E. Lindahl

From the 1870’s on passenger boats plied the north shore picking up fish from fishermen, carrying freight, and any passengers that wished to travel up the shore. At first these craft were very small and inadequate for open lake sailing. All were built of wood and many had paddlewheels instead of propellers. By the 1890’s the propeller-equipped boats had taken over from the paddlewheel ones. Some of these passenger packets were of respectable size while others remained small so they could enter shallow water at different stops along the shore. All of them hugged the shoreline as they made their way to and from Duluth. Without radar, sonar, or navigational aids the safety of these ships and their passengers relied on the skill and experience of the captain and crew. While accidents occurred with startling frequency, there was never any disaster on the north shore with any great loss of life.

One of the incidents that had potential for disaster was the grounding of the C. W. Moore of the United States & Dominion Transportation Company (Booth Fisheries line) on Stony Point on December 1, 1903. The C. W. Moore was probably traveling at full speed at night when she suddenly ran hard aground on the rocks. Luckily she was stuck tight so there was no danger of her sinking in deep water at the moment. The tug Schenk was summoned out of Duluth to try to pull her off of the rocks. This attempt failed so on December 2nd a contract was made with Eli Jacques to lighter the ship. At the time of the grounding the C. W. Moore had a cargo of heavy machinery and supplies onboard. It took until December 11th to finally get her free from Stony Point's rocky grip. A large hole had been punched through the bottom of the ship so it had to be taken immediately to the dry dock at the shipyard. It was an ordeal that had lasted 11 days, but everyone was safe.

Summary of Town Board Meetings

(Official minutes are available at the Town Hall and on our Township web site: www.duluthtownship.org).

March 13th meeting. Attending: Supervisors Bruce Aho, Steve Dahl, George Sundstrom, Corlis West. Various departments reported. All insurance has increased 40% to bring it up to date. Planning and Zoning recommended Dave Miller to fill the vacant position (approved). The south recycling shed will be moved back on the same property. The 2-year road and bridge contract will be posted for 10 days to seek sealed bids. Attorney Tim Strom recommended holding the Board reorganization meeting 7-17 days after the annual election (passed). The budget approved at the annual meeting included $5,000 for an audit. The annual meeting also approved $10,000 for school property mowing and snowplowing. The attorney will check relevant law on renegotiating this. The cemetery maintenance request for bids for 10 mowings per year would be posted. It was moved continued on page 3
that $5177.32 for community center insurance be paid out of the general fund (passed).

There will be a special meeting on March 26th to check on the possibility of purchasing portable classrooms for the school. Sealed bids are due April 2nd. French River Lutheran Church requested use of the community center for a week this summer for Vacation Bible School since their building will be under construction. This will be taken up at the March 26th meeting.

The “Board of Canvass” is a special function of the Town Board to certify the Township election results. The election outcome was certified.

A motion to put the Township on record as opposing a move to invade Iraq was made and the vote tied (no action).

March 26th special meeting. Attending: Supervisors Aho, Cook, Dahl, Sundstrom, and West. Incumbant and newly-re-elected Supervisor Jeff Cook took the oath of office. Although nominated, George Sundstrom declined serving another term as Board chair. Bruce Aho was nominated and elected Board chair for 2003. Corlis West will be vice chair. Responsibilities were distributed among the Supervisors:

Cemetery: George Sundstrom; Town Hall, Stephen Dahl; and Road and Bridge, Bruce Aho. Serving on various boards are: Jeff Cook on North Shore Management Board, School Foundation, McQuade Harbor, County and City liaison. Jeff Cook and George Sundstrom will represent us with the Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District and serve at liaison to our Police Department, and Jeff Cook and Corlis West will serve on the Storm Water meetings. George Sundstrom will be contact with the St. Louis County Officers. Bruce Aho and Stephen Dahl will serve as liaison to the North Shore Community School and Corlis West will be liaison to Duluth Area Township meetings and our Volunteer Fire Department. Being Township Supervisor is a busy job!

The French River Lutheran Church request to use the community center for a week this summer during church construction was approved and the usual fee waived. A policy on waiving fees will be developed.

The growth in enrollment of the North Shore Community School means that space needs to be considered soon. Used (air conditioned) portable classrooms are available from another school district. A bid will be made for these classrooms and up to $100,000 will be made available from the capital expenditure fund to acquire, move and set-up the classrooms. Motion passed (Sundstrom and West abstained).

An audience concern was raised about a supervisor’s attendance at Board meetings. However there is no rule on attendance. It was suggested that a roll call be made at each meeting.

April 10th meeting. Attending: Chair Aho, Cook, Dahl, Sundstrom, West. Minutes were approved and the agenda amended with items of concern. The liquor license for Scenic Café was approved. The Treasurer reported a beginning balance of $220,703.40, deposits of $15,148.19, Expenses of $22,238.74 and an ending balance of $213,612.85. The quarterly audit was approved.

continued on page 4
Interview…Saprina Matheny and Dave Miller. The questions previously distributed to them. Four people advertised vacant position were interviewed using 7 Dahlberg, Secretary Marino. Candidates for the Edblom, Fladmark, Hale, McTavish, Zoning Administrator 13th and Apr 10th at 7:30pm, Town Hall. Residents are cost for an audit but until the scope is known no cost can be estimated. A letter from the State Auditor indicated there will be an audit. The parcel has access and no fixed cost. Seeding ditches will be included in future road and bridge bids.

The request for a cart way access from Reimer Road was turned down because the parcel has access and no cart way is required.

A letter from the State Auditor indicated there will be a cost for an audit but until the scope is known no cost can be estimated. A request will be submitted for a financial and procedural audit for January 1, 2002 to December 31, 2002 (passed). This will be our first such audit and, given the growth in the Township and records complexity it was decided that this would be a prudent request.

The Attorney suggested that a modest written contract between the Township and the Volunteer Fire Department for fire and first responder services should be drawn up.

 Potential conflict of interest between serving on the Board of Supervisors and the NSCS Board was raised. George Sundstrom has been particularly careful to abstain from votes where a conflict might exist. He has elected to sit on the Town Board where his experience is much needed.

The Township won the portable classroom bid. A motion was made to have Northland Consulting engineers draw up a foundation plan to assure stability in the new site (passed).

Steve Dahl is a member of the new EIC leadership team to work toward better collaboration between the school and the Township.

A motion to allow any non-profit community group to utilize the community center without cost was tabled until the May meeting. The request to slightly increase the Township’s pay rate to the minimum wage was tabled until the May meeting.

The Next Town Board meetings: (2nd Thursday) Mar 13th and Apr 10th at 7:30pm, Town Hall. Residents are invited to attend these public meetings.

Summary of Planning Commission Meetings
(Official minutes are available at the Town Hall)

February 27th meeting. Attending: Chair Lawson, Edbloom, Fladmark, Hale, McTavish, Zoning Administrator Dahlberg, Secretary Marino. Candidates for the advertised vacant position were interviewed using 7 questions previously distributed to them. Four people indicated an interest but only two attended the scheduled interview…Saprina Matheny and Dave Miller. The Commission recommended Dave Miller as the replacement and this was approved by the Board of Supervisors at their March 13th meeting.

There was a discussion of the Steering Committee progress on the updated zoning document.

The proposed 2004 budget of $12,000 was discussed as was raising permit fees to help offset overseeing permits, variances and conditional use permits.

March 27th meeting. Attending: Chair Lawson, Edbloom, Hendrickson, Miller and Secretary Marino and Zoning Administrator Dahlberg. Officers for 2003-2004 were elected (Sue Lawson, chair; Adam Hendrickson, vice chair, Janet McTavish, representative to the Board of Adjustment.

The Committee approved putting these minutes on the web site. Wayne noted that there have been many out-of-area questions about shore development.

The Steering Committee is progressing. Tasks on the board are: a) finishing mapping/zoning for upper area, b) develop uses for the upper area; c) finish setting setback and lot width for the shore; d) dealing with open-space, Private Unit Developments and subdivision regulations.

Next meetings are May 1 and 15.

Change in permit fees was discussed. We lose money on variances and conditional use permits given the time required of our Zoning Administrator. Permit fees are currently $50 for a single-family home and $25 for accessory buildings, and $100 for a public hearing on variances and conditional use permits. This will be further discussed at later meetings. Other topics discussed were design of an educational pamphlet on design guidelines and procedures for those who are seeking a permit. Also discussed was the definition of the ridgeline area.

Next Planning Commission meetings: (4th Thursday) May 22nd and June 26th at 7:30pm, Town Hall. Residents are invited to attend these public meetings.

Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District
Mary Ann Sironen, D/NSSD Secretary

Construction is under way again in spite of deep frost and a cold spring. The crew near the French River on North Shore Drive will continue laying the main line with a combination of drilling and digging depending on the conditions of the area. Blasting is occasionally necessary to accomplish this phase of construction. Two test boring crews are in the Greenwood Beach and main pump station areas. Finishing the restoration of the areas previously disturbed by last fall’s work will begin again.

2003 tax statements for property owners in the District include an assessment amount in the neighborhood of $330 to the properties that are going to hook up to the sewer along with a variable levy amount on every parcel within the district. As the project continues and properties hook up, the levy amount will be reduced as monthly operation and maintenance payments are received.

These amounts appeared in several areas on the tax statements and may be identified as a “WLSSD” item. All residents receive a small assessment from WLSSD for solid waste handling so the larger amount in that category would be for D/NSSD. Work continues with the St. Louis County Auditor’s office to clarify your tax statements for...
Filing deadline is August 15, 2003. Returns can be filed up to a year after the due date.

When to expect your refund: You’ll receive your refund by the end of September if you file by August 2, or 60 days after you file, whichever is later.

For more information, see the 2002 Minnesota Property Tax Refund instruction booklet, available on the Minnesota Revenue website: www.taxes.state.mn.us. Or, call the department’s 24-hour forms order service: 651-296-4444.

From 2000 Census

The Census has our Township’s population at 1,604 in 1980, 1,561 in 1990, and 1,723 in 2000 with 705 housing units in 1990 and 714 in 2000 (which seems low).

Building permits for single family units (1994-2000) = 116; mobile home units (1994-2000) = 10. Yearly average over 7 years = 18 building permits (so we should have had about 740 households in 2000). There were 254 housing units and 13 commercial businesses (by signs) along the shore side of highway 61. This is about 34% of our housing on the North Shore.

The Township has an area of 27,608 acres of which 6,441 is public land managed by the State and St Louis County.

The Missing Wheels

Todd E. Lindahl

A Russel car is a short flat cat 20 feet in length used primarily for shipping 16-foot pine logs. The Alger Smith logging railroad had hundreds of these types of cars for their logging operations. The Duluth & Iron Range Ry likewise had some 350 Russel cars for rent to anyone logging along its lines. Since ore was shipped only in the summer, the sets of wheels (called trucks) were taken off of the ore cars and used on the log cars during the winter. When the shipping season started again the trucks were switched back to the ore car bodies. One winter a freight train from Duluth to Two Harbors had several empty Russel cars in it that were being returned to the woods. The trip was made without incident and the train was set out in the yard. The car inspector began to routinely examine each car until he came to one of the Russel cars, which stopped him in his tracks. There were wheels on only one end of the car with the other end being held up only by the coupling knuckle! The entire truck and all four wheels were missing. A man was sent out on a motorcar and finally found the missing truck parked neatly in the ditch near Palmers. Somehow it had gotten out from under the car and completely off of the track without derailing any other cars. Nor did it draw the attention of the crew in the caboose. It was a pretty slick escape worthy of Harry Houdini. How it happened remains a mystery to this day.
Inside this Issue:

- Township Calendar
- Town Board meetings
- Planning Commission meetings
- Fire and Police news
- Community School news
- DNSSD sewer line update
- “11 Days on Stony Point”
- Tax information

If your name and address are in error or you know of someone who is not receiving a Newsletter, please send a note to the Newsletter Editor at the Town Hall (News box on the Town Hall porch). Extra copies are also available in the Town Hall.

Duluth Township Information for 2003
Duluth Town Hall, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804
Phone (218) 525-5705 (voice message), fax (218) 525-3845,
web site: www.duluthtownship.org, or
email: TownHall@duluthtownship.org

Town Office Hours: Tues. and Wed. 12:30-3:30
Thursday 9:00-12:00 and 4:00-7:00

Supervisors:
Bruce Aho 525-4033 or email:
BruceAho@duluthtownship.org (responsibilities: chairman roads, NSCS)
Jeff Cook 525-4010 or email:
JeffCook@duluthtownship.org (responsibilities: DNSSD, liaison to many area boards and agencies)
Stephen Dahl 525-4679 or email:
SteveDahl@duluthtownship.org (responsibilities: Town hall, NSCS building and grounds)
George Sundstrom 525-5655 or email:
GeorgeSundstrom@duluthtownship.org (responsibilities: cemetery, Police, DNSSD, other meetings)
Corlis West 525-7719 or email:
CorlisWest@duluthtownship.org (Fire Dept, Storm Water, other meetings)

Clerk: Ann Cox 525-5705 (Town Hall)
or email: AnnCox@duluthtownship.org
Treasurer: Janet Johansen 525-5705 (Town Hall)
or email: JanetJohansen@duluthtownship.org
Attorney: Tim Strom 722-4766 (office)

or email: TimStrom@duluthtownship.org
Cemetery: Denise Connolly 525-7161 or 392-8511
or email: Cemetery@duluthtownship.org
Planning and Zoning Administrator: Wayne Dahlberg
728-4293 (office) or email:
WayneDahlberg@duluthtownship.org
Planning and Zoning Secretary: Carolyn Marino
email: CarolynMarino@duluthtownship.org
Planning and Zoning Committee: Sue Lawson (chair),
David Edblom, Toni Fladmark, Cindy Hale, Adam Hendrickson, Janet McTavish and Dave Miller.
email: PlanningZoning@duluthtownship.org

Peace Officers: Chief Shawn Padden,
Steve Peterson, Tom Wick
Email: PoliceOffice@duluthtownship.org
Fire Department: Chief Jerry Simmons
Assistant Chief Bill Cox
Email: FireHall@duluthtownship.org

Note: Where possible, email is forwarded to the person,
otherwise it is sent to the Town Hall where it is picked up.

Township Recycling Centers
North site – Town Hall, Bob Abrahamson staffs the center Tuesday 2-6pm and Saturday 8-12noon.
South site – McQuade & Scenic Hwy, Caroline Marino
staffs the center Tues 7:00-11:00, Thurs 3:00-7:00,
and Sat 8:00-noon (phone: 525-4592).
(Leave items only when Recycling Centers are open.)