



# DULUTH TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

DULUTH TOWNSHIP WEB SITE: [WWW.DULUTHTOWNSHIP.ORG](http://WWW.DULUTHTOWNSHIP.ORG) MAY 2007



## May 10th is Bob Abrahamson Day

In recognition of a lifetime of volunteering to Duluth Township.

The Town Board will recognize Bob Abrahamson's service to the Township with a **Lifetime Service Award** at their May 10th meeting. Many know Bob from his work over the years at our Recycling Shed and as volunteer on Town Hall maintenance work. Before that, Bob served for 20+ years as a Township Supervisor where he paid special attention to upgrading Township roads and handling two severe road-washout floods. Bob served in the Marines. He was a Boy Scout leader and activity chair for 10 years, and for 25 years has arranged our Township Memorial Day service. He is a life-long Duluth Township resident and attended the Bloomingdale and Clover Valley schools. Bob and his wife, Deloris' have two children, Jim and Beth Ann, and two grandchildren, Corey (who helped Bob at recycling), and Kelly.

## What's Coming Up...

**Zoning Information Meeting, May 17, Thu, 7pm at the Town Hall.** The Planning Commission will hold an open house to present information on corrections and changes in our Zoning Ordinance (*see the article that follows*).

**Zoning Public Hearing, June 7th, Thu, 7pm at the Town Hall** on proposed corrections and changes in our Zoning Ordinance. The Town Board then takes action on the proposed changes, informed by the hearing.

**BAT Open House is May 8th 7pm at the Community Center/School.** The Building Assessment Team (BAT) is holding a public open house to provide information about our Community Center, needs of our tenant, North Shore Community School, and community needs and vision for the future of our Community Center (*see the article that follows*).

**Fire Tanker.** Our Clifton Volunteer Fire Department is seeking a pumper/tanker to replace an old and disabled water tanker.

**Planning Commission Office Hours at our Town Hall:** Trisha O'Keefe, Planning Commission Secretary: Monday 3-6, and John Kessler, Assistant to the Planning Director: Wednesday 3:30-6:30. Call John Kessler for an appointment if you are unable to meet during office hours.

**FIRE BAN, no fire permits issued until further notice** (*see Town Hall posting*). Recreational fires not requiring a permit are still allowed, but no brush burning.

## 2007 Town Board



This is our 2007 Town Board after the March 14th Town Elections. Left to right are Town Supervisors: **David Mount** (newly elected), **Dan Tanner**, **Jeff Cook**, **Wendy Anderson**, and **Steve Dahl** (re-elected).

*Thanks to all contributors to this issue:* Deloris Abrahamson, Wendy Anderson, Ann Cox, Bob Engelson, Helen Hendrickson, Janis Hooey, Todd Lindahl, Janet McTavish, Dave Miller, Trisha O'Keefe, Mary Ann Siironen, Violet Sunde and her daughter Marlene Mattson, and our Township webmaster, Linda Holliday.

*If you would be willing to provide a masthead drawing or picture, leave a note for the editor at the Town Hall.*

Thanks to **Bob Sundstrom** and BB&K for donating the color to this issue.

**New Recycling Staff:** Thanks for the community spirit of 9 residents who offered to help with our recycling center. From this wealth of good offers, three positions were filled. Please welcome: **Al Anderson**, **Marlys Livingston**, and **Kathy Peer** who will share current recycling shed hours.

### Clifton Volunteer Fire Department and First Responders

*Bob Engelson, Chief*

The Department is looking for a pumper/tanker to replace the old tanker that has broken down. A FEMA grant to acquire a truck is being re-submitted but in the mean time a tanker is needed.



**911 Signs** need to be clearly posted for emergency personnel to see, especially at night. Check your sign.

There is a **FIRE BAN** on brush burning because of the dry spring conditions.

**Volunteer Fire Fighters Needed** The Clifton Volunteer Fire Department needs residents who would like to be a volunteer firefighter. It's a great way to serve your community and get to drive big red trucks! Apprehensive? Give a call to Chief Bob Engelson at 525-6819 to find out what it's all about. The Department pays for fire training and outfits you in the latest fire fighting fashion attire.

**Please Pick Up Your 911 Signs** at the Town Hall  
*Christopher and Joan Ayd, 5880 North Shore Drive*  
*Donna Brennen, 1456 Knife River Road*  
*Jody and Kelly Faughnan, 1225 Knife River Road*  
*Roger Rose, 5252 McQuade Road*

*Licensed*  
**DAYCARE OPENINGS**  
*Call Mindy at 727-2528 -- Torgeson Road*

*Paid Advertisement*

  
**Robin Whaley**  
218-834-6454  
**Stay at Home**  
PET CARE SERVICES  
**Dependable pet care in your home.**

*Paid Advertisement*

**COMMUNITY CELEBRATION**, Thu. 6:30pm, May 10<sup>th</sup> at *North Shore Community School*, Ryan Road  
Alice Dahlberg and Florence Jackson will be honored.

### THE HOMESTEADERS

*Helen Hendrickson*

**May 2<sup>nd</sup>**, Wednesday, 12:30pm, Town Hall. *Container Gardening* by Master Gardner, Lone Cooke.

**June 6<sup>th</sup>**, Wednesday, 12:30pm, Town Hall. *All About Agates*, June Grant and Marge Hayes. *You are welcome to bring your agates for their comments.*

**July 11<sup>th</sup>**, Wednesday, 12:30pm, Town Hall. Annual Homesteader's Picnic.

**Everyone is welcome.** For information call Helen Hendrickson at 525-4154.

### Building Assessment Team (BAT)

*Wendy Anderson*

The BAT is having an informational Open House on **May 8<sup>th</sup>**, Tuesday, at 7:00pm at our Community Center. The purpose is to update residents on the current state of our Community Center and needs of the community and our tenant, North Shore Community School. The meeting will include a brief slide presentation on what other communities have done, the current relationship between the school and Township, the state of the current building, a report of grants received and projects undertaken, how the current facility is being used, visions and needs of the community and school, etc. Be sure to attend.

### Police Department

*Shawn Padden, Chief*

At the March Annual meeting, the Police Department reported 881 police events in 2006. The most frequent events were: 217 requested vacation home checks, 65 requests for extra patrolling, 58 traffic warnings and 41 medical emergencies. The list also includes drug incidents, civil and domestic disputes, checking suspicious vehicles, public assists, arrests, locating reckless drivers, animal complaints, burglaries and responding to burglar alarms, permitting handguns, and accidents. In March there were 60 events plus regular patrols

Our Police Department maintains an **E-mail Crime Alert** service (it is also on our web site). To receive notices send your email address to [PoliceOffice@duluthtownship.org](mailto:PoliceOffice@duluthtownship.org).



*Spring fishing at French River*

## Duluth Township Information

Duluth Town Hall, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804  
Phone (218) 525-5705 (voice message),  
fax (218) 525-3845, web site: [www.duluthtownship.org](http://www.duluthtownship.org).  
or Email: [TownHall@duluthtownship.org](mailto:TownHall@duluthtownship.org)

**Town Office Hours:** Tues. and Wed. 9am-12am  
Thursday 9:00-12:00 & 4:00-7:00

### Supervisors:

**Wendy Anderson** (2005-2008) Vice Chair, 525-0263  
or Email: [WendyAnderson@duluthtownship.org](mailto:WendyAnderson@duluthtownship.org)  
(responsibilities: Community Center, Board of Adjustment, Personnel, Planning, Senior Housing, Building Addition Team), Recycling (South meetings)

**Jeff Cook**, (2006-2009) 525-4010  
or Email: [JeffCook@duluthtownship.org](mailto:JeffCook@duluthtownship.org)  
(responsibilities: Road & Bridge, Planning, D/NSSD, McQuade Harbor Joint Powers, North Shore Mgmt Board, RSPT Stormwater)

**Stephen Dahl**, (2004-2007) 525-4679 or  
Email: [SteveDahl@duluthtownship.org](mailto:SteveDahl@duluthtownship.org)  
(responsibilities: Road & Bridge, Community Center)

**Dan Tanner** (2005-2008) , 525-4087  
or Email: [DanTanner@duluthtownship.org](mailto:DanTanner@duluthtownship.org)  
(responsibilities: Cemetery, Town Hall, Recycling (South meetings), Personnel, Outside Township Meetings – St Louis County and Duluth)

**Dave Mount** (2007-2010) 525-7961  
or Email: [DaveMount@duluthtownship.org](mailto:DaveMount@duluthtownship.org)  
(responsibilities:, Fire, Police, Newsletter, Sr. Hsg.)

**Town Clerk:** **Ann Cox** 525-5705 (Town Hall)  
or Email: [TownClerk@duluthtownship.org](mailto:TownClerk@duluthtownship.org)

**Treasurer:** **Janet Johansen** 525-5705 (Town Hall)  
or Email: [TownTreasurer@duluthtownship.org](mailto:TownTreasurer@duluthtownship.org)

**Attorney:** **Tim Strom** 722-4766 (office)  
or Email: [TownAttorney@duluthtownship.org](mailto:TownAttorney@duluthtownship.org)

**Cemetery:** **Denise Connolly** 525-7161 or 525-1902  
or Email: [Cemetery@duluthtownship.org](mailto:Cemetery@duluthtownship.org)

**Planning and Zoning Administrator:** **Wayne Dahlberg**  
Assistant to the Administrator: **John Kessler**  
**393-8500**, Email: [JohnKessler@duluthtownship.org](mailto:JohnKessler@duluthtownship.org)  
Town Hall hours: 3:30-6:30 Wed. or by appointment.

**Planning and Zoning Secretary:** **Trisha O'Keefe** — **525-4166**  
Office hours at the Town Hall: 3-6pm Mondays  
Email: [PlanningZoning@duluthtownship.org](mailto:PlanningZoning@duluthtownship.org)

**Planning and Zoning Committee:** **Dave Miller** (Chair), **Dave Chura** (Vice Chair), **Yvonne Rufford**, **Jan Green**,  
**Adam Hendrickson**, **Michael Kahl**, and **Seth Levanen**.  
Email: [PlanningZoning@duluthtownship.org](mailto:PlanningZoning@duluthtownship.org)

**Peace Officers:** **Chief Shawn Padden**, **Officers: Mike Peterson**, **Steve Peterson** and **Rick Swanson**.  
Emergencies 9-1-1, Messages 525-5705 or 393-8407  
Email: [DuluthTwpPolice@duluthtownship.org](mailto:DuluthTwpPolice@duluthtownship.org)

**Fire Department:** **Chief Bob Engelson**, **Assistant Chief Will Hartman** Email: [FireHall@duluthtownship.org](mailto:FireHall@duluthtownship.org)

**Community Education Coordinator:** **Anne Miller** 525-0663  
x208 or Email: [EducCoordinator@duluthtownship.org](mailto:EducCoordinator@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 Center

**North site** – at the *Town Hall, on Homestead Road*  
Staffing by **Carolyn Marino** and **Al Anderson**, **Marlys Livingston**, and **Kathy Peer** **Tuesday 7-11am, 2-6pm,**  
**Thursday 3-7pm, and Saturday 8-12 noon.**

**South site** – Closed due to McQuade Harbor project.  
(Drop off only during recycling hours)

## Township Calendar

See updates on [www.duluthtownship.org](http://www.duluthtownship.org).

### May 2007

- 1, Tue, 7:00 BAT committee meets, Town Hall
- 2, Wed, 12:30 **Homesteader's**, Town Hall
- 2, Wed, 7:00pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road
- 7, Mon, 7pm **Senior Housing** group, Town Hall.
- 8, Tue, 7:00pm, **Open House** by Building Assessment Team (BAT), Community Center/school, Ryan Rd (see article)
- 9, Wed, **7am Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran Church
- 9, Wed, 7:00pm Public Hearing on a conditional use
- 10, Thu, 7:00pm **TOWN BOARD**, Town Hall
- 10, Thu, 6:30pm **Community Celebration**, NSCS, Ryan Road. Residents *Alice Dahlberg* and *Florence Jackson* will be honored.
- 16, Wed, 7:00pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** training, Hall #1
- 17, Thu, 7:00pm **Information Meeting** on Proposed Zoning Ordinance Changes, Town Hall
- 21, Mon, 6:30pm **North Shore Community School Board** meeting, NSCS Library.
- 24, Thu, 7:30pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall

### June 2007

- 6, Wed, 12:30 **Homesteader's**, Town Hall (note article)
- 6, Wed, 7:00pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Rd
- 7, Thu. 7:00pm Public Hearing on Zoning Ordinance Changes, Town Hall.
- 11, Mon, 7:00pm **Senior Housing** group, Town Hall
- 13, Wed, **7am Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran
- 14, Thu, 7:00pm **TOWN BOARD**, Town Hall
- 18, Mon, 6:30pm, **North Shore Community School Board** meeting, NSCS Library
- 20, Wed, 7:00pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** training
- 23, Mon. **Deadline** for July Newsletter
- 28, Thu, 7:30pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall

### July 2007

- 3, Tue, 7:00 BAT committee meets, Town Hall
- 9, Mon, 7:00pm **Senior Housing** group, Town Hall
- 11, Wed, 12:30 **Homesteader's** meet Town Hall
- 11, Wed, 7:00pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** business meeting Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road
- 11, Wed, **7am Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran Church
- 12, Thu, 7:00pm **TOWN BOARD**, Town Hall.
- 16, Mon, 6:30pm, **North Shore Community School Board** meeting, NSCS Library.
- 18, Wed, 7:00pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** Training Hall #1
- 26, Thu, 7:30pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall



Scenic highway bridge at French River.

**Our Elected Representatives**

**US Senate: Norm Coleman**, 2550 University Ave. N., Suite 100N, St Paul, MN 55114. (651) 645-0323.  
**Amy Klobuchar**, 1 Federal Drive, Whipple Federal Bldg Suite 298, Ft Snelling, MN 55111 (612) 727-5220  
**US House District 8: James Oberstar**, Rm 231 Duluth Federal Building, Duluth, MN 55802 (218) 727-7474  
**MN Senate District 6: Thomas M. Bakk**, 226 Capital, 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd, St Paul, MN 55115. (651) 296-4188. sen.tom.bakk@senate.mn  
**MN House District 6A: David Dill**, 571 State Office Bldg, 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, St. Paul, MN 55155. (800) 339-0466. rep.david.dill@house.mn.  
**St Louis County District 5: Peg Sweeney**, Room 208, 100N 5th Ave West, Duluth, MN 55802 (218) 726-2450.

**The Alger Line — Part 2 of 4**

Todd Lindahl

The first year of construction in 1898 on the Duluth & Northern Minnesota Railway (Alger- Smith Line) saw the building of seven and a half miles of mainline track. This might seem like an accomplishment to be noted, but the railroad regarded it as an utter disaster. They had intended to build 15 miles of mainline and had fallen short of that goal by a dismal 50 percent. The culprits responsible were those voracious northern Minnesota bugs. The men brought in to build the railroad soon fled in disgust from the hordes of mosquitoes, black flies, deer flies, and other annoying pests. New employees on their way in met scratching irritated former employees on their way out. Throughout the summer of 1898 it seems the only ones who were happy were the bugs.

The following year of 1899 found the mainline at mile 15 where they had hoped to be the previous year. Here they accessed good timber and the mainline advanced at a crawl for the next nine years. During that same year the Alger - Smith Lumber Company bought the huge Knox Lumber Company sawmill on Rice's Point in Duluth. In 1902 they also purchased the Mitchell & McClure sawmill at Grassy Point in West Duluth. Either of these two mills was the largest in the world at the time they were built. This gave the A & S Company a total capacity of over 606,000 board feet of production each day. This would be the equivalent of 115 miles of one-foot wide boards laid end to end every day. In 1909 they purchased the former Howe Lumber Company sawmill at Tower, Minnesota. Logging operations other than along their railroad popped up all over northeastern Minnesota. Aside from the railroad, they also did a large amount of log rafting on Lake Superior from the Pigeon River and other locations. By 1913 the railroad owned 13 locomotives and leased additional engines during periods of increased activity. As many as 15 trains per day rolled into Knife River. It was boom times in the north woods, but the good times were not to last. There were storm clouds on the horizon.

**Clifton 4-H Club** — The club meets monthly. Call Katie Edblom for membership information: 525-1276.  
**Clover Valley Forum** — is an interesting site with a lot of history being shared about our area. The link is: clovervalley.twoharborsforum.com. Janet Johansen (local resident and our Town Treasurer) suggested that it would be nice to get more people adding information about our Clover Valley area.

**Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District**

Mary Ann Sironen

The DNSSD Board meets at 7:00 in the morning on the second Wednesday each month at French River Lutheran Church. Current issues are about financing and rates.

For service call Eric Appelwick's office at 345 Canal Park Drive, Suite 300, Duluth 55802. Phone. 624-8042 and 590-5911.

**Senior Housing Initiative**

Members of the Senior Housing Steering Committee continue to meet with St Louis County officials on the possibility of building senior housing in our Township. The County has expressed an interest in determining the demand for senior housing in rural communities.

A group of long-time residents of Duluth Township will be meeting to determine what that need has been locally during the past 10 years.

**March 13th Annual Town Meeting**

Residents attending the Annual Town Meeting elected Sue Lawson as moderator. Clerk Ann Cox provided a document which included the 2007 Annual Meeting minutes (*approved*), the agenda for this meeting, information on 2006 activities of each department (e.g. fire, police, etc.), a summary of 2006 expenditures, 2007 budgets (*adopted last year*), and the Audit report.

Each department then presented their proposed budget for 2008. These were discussed and approved. The citizenry approved official posting places (*Town Hall, Fire Hall #1, Scenic Café, Lakeview Castle, Community Center*), the newspaper used for official notices (*Duluth News Tribune*), and our bank, (*Lake Bank, Two Harbors*). Results of the Supervisor election were announced. Dave Mount and Steve Dahl were elected.

The Annual Town Meeting was closed (rather than adjourned) with August 9th specified as the date of any continuation meeting should that be needed.

**Avian Flu** — The threat still exists for a widespread "bird" flu pandemic. A vaccine has been developed which is being stockpiled by the US Government for emergency and medical personnel. Apparently it is more complicated to administer and is not being sold at this point.

## Summary of Recommended Zoning Ordinance Changes

The Planning Commission has been working on various corrections and changes in our Zoning Ordinance. These have been reviewed by the Town Board and are being presented to Town residents at a **Public Information Meeting** to be held on **May 17<sup>th</sup>**. The final set of recommendations will be presented at a **Public Hearing** scheduled for **June 7**.

The following is a summary of the recommended changes. A document with the full text of changes will be available at the *Information Meeting* and at the Town Hall and on our web site, [www.duluthtownship.org](http://www.duluthtownship.org).

### 1. Short Term Rental of Residential Properties.

Short term rental is defined as a single, two-family, or seasonal dwelling rented by the owner for periods less than 30-days and not occupied by the owner during rental periods. This is a conditional use and is not permitted in certain non-residential areas.

There was no provision for short term rental in the current ordinance and complaints have been received about short term rentals in residential areas.

### 2. Riparian Area Timber Harvesting.

Clear cutting in the Lake Superior Shoreland area is not permitted unless certain conditions are met such as having a forest management plan, authorized public service (utilities, roads), or an approved site development plan. Similar clarifications were added for shoreland overlay areas along streams.

A request was received to do a commercial harvest in a shoreland overlay area and clarification of the ordinance was needed to determine the conditions under which commercial harvest and/or clear-cutting was permitted.

### 3. Subordinate Residential Dwelling.

A subordinate dwelling is an additional structure to accommodate immediate family members where the primary living structure can no longer house all family members, or where grandparents may be housed. It is a conditional use with specified conditions regarding adequate septic, meeting setbacks, etc. The conditional use is terminated when the approved use is discontinued.

This is an emerging issue in the Township that needed clarification.

### 4. Subdividing Parcels of Property for Sale.

Clarification that subdivided property must each meet minimum lot coverage requirements and other dimensional requirements of the ordinance.

Clarification was needed to give direction on requirements when dividing parcels into 2 or more ownerships.

### 5. Planned Unit Development (PUD).

Article XII, Section 5 was re-ordered and revised to clarify the process by which residents are informed so that any concerns can be resolved early. There is a pre-application meeting with the Planning Director leading to a Preliminary Concept Plan. There is a public open house to provide information about the preliminary plan. The Planning Commission then holds a public hearing and acts on the Preliminary Concept Plan. If the Preliminary Concept Plan is approved, then the final PUD Plan is prepared and submitted as currently set out in our ordinance (p97-102).

The change is in response to a need for clarification of the process and its requirements. It also clarifies when a PUD application is complete and clarifies our compliance with the sixty day rule.

### 6. The Planning Commission.

Planning Commission staff (e.g. secretary) vacancies are filled by the Planning Commission. Vacancies on the Planning Commission are filled by the Town Board.

This clarifies the process of hiring Planning Commission staff.

### 7. Light Industrial Use (LIU) District.

In response to residents, the conditions that apply to the LIU District were clarified. These changes were not available at the time of publication, but will be provided at the Open House on May 17th.

### 8. Other Corrections and Clarifications.

Correct the Shoreland Overlay (SLO) from "un-established watercourses" to "unclassified established watercourses".

There are several other editorial, typing and reference corrections not available at the time of publication. These will be explained at the Open House on My 17th.

### Summary of Planning Commission Meetings

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

**January 25th meeting.** All members attended. A 2006 Accomplishment Report was distributed and discussed. A shortened version will be presented at the Annual Town Meeting. The 2008 proposed Planning budget will be discussed at the February meeting.

Criteria for filling a vacancy were discussed. These were a) an ability to work with people in a positive way, b) knowledge of our Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance, c) commitment to enforce our Zoning Ordinance, d) community interest over individual interest, e) commitment to attend meetings and keep abreast of issues. Motion passed.

Patricia O'Keefe was selected to fill the secretary opening. The commission will recommend to the Board that she be hired effective Feb 8th.

The PUD application process was discussed.

The Township's Senior Housing initiative requested \$600 to conduct a needs study. Motion approved.

Draft language changes for the Zoning Ordinance were reviewed including a short term rental definition.

There has been a limited response to updating our Light Industrial Use district performance standards.

**February 22nd meeting.** Members present: Chair Dave Miller, Dave Chura, Janet Green, Michael Kahl, Sue Lawson, and Seth Levanen. Plaques in appreciation of service were given to *Sue Lawson* (6 yrs) and *Carolyn Marino* (20 yrs as secretary).

Draft proposed language changes for our Zoning Ordinance were discussed, including: a) short term rental, and b) timber harvest in shoreland areas, c) two families on one property, d) impervious service on sub-divided property, e) LIU performance standards, f) other corrections.

Dale and Cathleen Krueger discussed multiple ownership of Dodges Log Lodges. They sold the resort but got it back. The property is 2.3 acres. The issue was tabled.

**March 22nd meeting.** Members present: Vice Chair Dave Chura, Janet Green, Yvonne Rutford, and Seth Levanen. Yvonne Rutford was welcomed as the new member appointed by the Town Board after their interview process. Officers were elected for 2007: Dave Miller chair, Dave Chura vice chair, and Adam Hendrickson as representative on the Board of Appeals.

Proposed changes in the Zoning Ordinance were discussed. An open house will be held May 17th at 7pm and the Public Hearing will be held June 7th at 7pm.

Trisha O'Keefe reported on the new office arrangement at the Town Hall. Hours are 3-6pm Mondays.

John Kessler noted that our official land use permit needs to be the one used on web sites.

**The Next Planning Committee meetings: (4<sup>th</sup> Thursday) May 24<sup>th</sup> and June 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the Town Hall. Residents are urged to attend these meetings.**

### Summary of Town Board Meetings

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

**March 8<sup>th</sup> Stormwater Public Hearing.** Annually we are required to hold a public hearing on stormwater issues. This is an opportunity for residents to raise questions and express concerns about stormwater. This meeting was called to order by Supervisor Jeff Cook at 6:30pm. No business was discussed and the meeting closed at 7:00pm

**March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.** Supervisors attending: Jeff Cook, Dan Tanner, Stephen Dahl, Corlis West. Minutes of the last meeting were approved and the agenda set. There were no concerns from the audience. The Board of Review was scheduled for April 3rd. The claims list (list of bills to be paid) was approved for payment. There was no treasurer's or police report for this meeting.

**Department Reports:** The *Fire Department* reported on the break-down of our 5000 gallon, military airport-style tanker, on loan from the DNR. A goal is to have a pumper and a tanker in each of our three fire halls. Options were explained. Used, certified fire tankers or pumper/tankers are hard to find and we need to move rather quickly with the bidding process if one is found (those recently available were in the \$60-75,000 range). A motion was made to approve the use of up to \$65,000 from the general fund for purchase of a suitable tanker.

**Community Center:** Lights have been replaced in the gym. The grant to replace all windows requires a bid process for architect services. The septic pump went out and the back up pump did not kick in. The pump has been replaced.

**Legal:** The Township has never had a road and bridge contract. The Minnesota Association of Townships web site provides a model which will be reviewed by our Attorney to see that it fits our needs.

**Town Hall:** Conduct in and near the polling place laws were noted.

**Planning and Zoning:** The Board will notify Yvonne Rutford that she has been selected as a new member. Other candidates were Aliceon Stillman and Dennis Bruckelmyer.

**Recycling:** Bob Abrahamson asked that a note be placed in the Newsletter requesting a replacement.

**Road and Bridge:** Bids for road work for 2007-8 have been posted in the paper. There is a new County Road Supervisor. There was a problem of icing on West Clover Valley Drive due to snowmobiles going over the culvert. A fence needs to be installed at that point.

Work of the *North Shore Management Board* was

**The Next Town Board meetings: (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday) May 10<sup>th</sup> and June 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the Town Hall. Residents are urged to attend these public meetings**

## Violet Sunde's Memories of School Cooking

I started working on the hot lunch as a W.P.A. cook the first week in September 1935. The first two weeks were spent canning fruits and vegetables at the Salter school on London Road in Duluth. I'll never forget the first day at work. My job was peeling onions. The more I peeled, the more I cried. The next day was green beans, and so on. We canned whatever we could get our hands on, and then they were distributed among the schools. At this time I learned to can with tin cans and large pressure cookers, which I did at Bloomingdale school (editor: was located on Korkki Road in Duluth Township) for many years. Bloomingdale was a 3-room school (grades 1-6). The W.P.A. also made racks for drying vegetables, which I did. When the children had days off, the cooks would spend the day cleaning or making noodles or baking cookies, etc.

We had very little to cook in and eat out of. The children would bring their own plates, cups and silver, but we were always short, so the P.T.A. bought several dozen tin cups and a kettle or two. Most of my cooking was done in #10 cans on a three-burner gasoline stove that someone donated to the project. I remember Mr. Redlock would come half an hour early to school; brought Mrs. Drew, the other cook, to light the stove. It would smoke — all the kettles black. Mrs. Haggerty, Mrs. Garlow, cooks from Clover Valley School (on Homestead Road) and I would go to the pig farm and go through the garbage when the Kissling boys would come from Duluth with the garbage truck. We 'picked out' some fine silverware from the large hotels and restaurants. Also, cups, saucers and other dishes that had been thrown away. We took them to school, scrubbed them and put them in a kettle to boil. We had the most beautiful silverware in town! Surprising what goes into the garbage. It kept us at Bloomingdale happy as (we needed) no more tin silver!

I worked one month in Clover Valley School when Mrs. Johnson, one of the cooks, was called on jury duty; after which I never left Bloomingdale again until they tore it down and we moved into the new school — North Shore Elementary (now our North Shore Community School on Ryan Road). Eventually the P.T.A. bought us plastic dishes and more silverware.

After ten years under the W.P.A. the St. Louis County School District took over the hot lunch program. My wages were cut one-third. The P.T.A. came to my rescue and gave me \$5.00 a month for two years until the School District raised it to where it was when the W.P.A. had it.

Then the school district decided there was no money for hot lunch cooks. They asked the P.T.A. to send volunteers to cook for the children. I got a job for two weeks for the railroad — this during the Second World War. After that ended, I offered to work two days a week if other ladies would donate their services three days a week, but very few came, so I finally worked five days a week until in February when the school board decided to pay my

wages from January and (I) have been paid ever since.

Food was hard to come by in those days. The children brought vegetables, breads, sauce, meat when they butchered, pork, beef, venison or whatever. They also would bring whatever they could from home, some brought sugar, salt and one boy always brought two quarts of milk for chocolate pudding on Fridays. That was a big day. If they couldn't bring anything, we asked for 3¢ but seldom got it. No one was ever denied a meal.

I remember one little boy who was so lonesome for his mother and would not eat. So after I finished feeding the rest of the children, I'd take the little fellow on my lap and feed him. It wasn't long before he ate with the rest. It paid off because he is now a strapping six-foot woodsman.

Our school was one big happy family — teachers, janitors, bus drivers, and children. It was a happy school. The library was the kitchen, one end a sick room and the place where all the adults gathered for conferences.

I had one daughter who came to school where mom cooked. It was hard for her at times. She was a fussy eater, too long having the run of the home with her dad who was ill. She had to eat, so as not to let her mother down in front of the children.

There were many hardships getting to school in the early days. I didn't drive and no car to drive. My husband went to the junk yards and picked up parts and built a motor. We then went to a farm house and got a coupe body that was used to house chickens; took it home, cleaned it up and assembled our first car. I had to learn how to drive, which gave me many sleepless nights wondering how I would get up the big hill to school. There was dirt in the gas tank and I'd get half way up the hill and the gas line would plug up and I'd have to back the Model A down the hill, take the gas line off and blow in it and try again. When I got to school, I'd worry how I was going to get down the hill as the brakes would wear out if they were used too much. In winter the roads were very icy (as now). One day, coming down the road for home, I started rolling and couldn't stop on the ice until I landed in the ditch and rolled over on its roof.

The snow storms seemed worse then (than) now. One time we had a huge wet snow storm and then it got cold and froze. I knew there would be school even if the bus would not go on our road, as the snowplow didn't come. So I decided to walk half a mile to the main road and catch the school bus. I waded in snow over my knees. By the time I had gone half way, I knew I couldn't pull my legs out of the snow. Just as far to go back as forward — so (I) decided to lay down and roll the rest of the way, which I did. Finally (I) caught the bus and only got frozen clothes and frosted legs!

Our Christmas programs were put on by our three teachers and students and they were masterpieces. Our teachers were dedicated girls who put their heart

*(continued on the next page)*



(continued from page 7, Violet Sunde)

into their work, whether it was teaching the three-R's, putting on a play, teenie weenie bank, or sing and dance. All the children were in the programs. The community came all out for the school doings. The walls bulged at the seams. No matter how bad the weather was, people came out to hear their children. We had about 70 to 100 children in our school. At the end of school every year, (which we still have) we had the school picnic which was a gala affair. Parents, grandparents, aunts and cousins all attended.

The 25<sup>th</sup> year of my cooking for my hot lunch kids was the last year Bloomingdale was open. The kids and friends and teachers presented me with an engraved bowl for 25 years of cooking for the children.

We then moved into the new school as our enrollment got too large for our school and I have been here fifteen years, making it 40 years of cooking lunches for my kids.

Violet Sunde



The kitchen crew. Mrs. Sunde on the left.

*Violet (Barthell) Sunde, 96, a long-time resident of Duluth Township, will be remembered by many who attended Bloomingdale and North Shore schools. Violet was born in Butte, Montana and raised in Knife River. She lives in Lakeview Memorial Home in Two Harbors. Helen Hendrickson provided the article with permission to print it from Violet's daughter, Marlene Mattson. Thanks also, to Marlene for the pictures.*

Mailed to 924 Duluth Township homes and businesses. Copies are available at the Town Hall. Please send your comments and suggestions to the volunteer Newsletter editor, Don McTavish at the Town Hall, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804 or use the NewsBox on the Town Hall porch. The Newsletter is printed locally by **BB&K Printing**, and mailed for us by **UDAC**.

# DULUTH TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

MAY 2007

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Along the North Shore

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