

The Fishwrapper



"CARLTON PEAK BEHIND BLUEFIN BAY"

A Brief History of 3M & Carlton Peak by Brian Tofte

The 3-M company (originally the Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company) was first organized in Two Harbors in 1903 by a very small group of Two Harbors business men.

This was an era when rumors abounded concerning the mineral wealth that lay all about in the northern Minnesota wilderness awaiting those with imagination, energy and daring - gold, silver, copper, iron. When the first settlers arrived, they found two significant mining exploration projects. One of these abandon "mines" was found by Andrew & John Tofte in 1895. Among the things left behind was a portable blacksmith's forge which they carried on their backs to provide the start for the first blacksmith shop in Tofte.

The origin of the 3M idea was the discovery of a mineral believed to be corundum, a natural mineral then used widely as an abrasive - chiefly for sandpaper. This ore was found at a site on the shore of Lake Superior at a place called Crystal Bay between Illgen City and Little Marais. Good abrasives were in demand. On the Crystal Bay site the company built a six story crusher, a boarding house for miners and an aerial tramway leading to its mine about a half mile back into the woods. Stock was sold, dreams were dreamed, mining and manufacturing of sand paper was carried on - but there were few repeat orders - the quality was inferior. It was discovered that the mineral that they originally thought was corundum was actually anorthosite. Corundum is the purist natural abrasive with a hardness next to diamonds. Anorthosite, on the other hand,

is not much good for anything.

It was decided that a new source of abrasive ore should be sought. They heard about the hard abrasive rock in Carlton peak. In March, 1907, a Mr. Cable, one of the founders, came to Tofte to investigate. The decision was made to open a shaft into the Peak itself in search of the hoped for "higher grade of corundum." Mr. Cable hired local people to carry out the operation. Andrew & John Tofte were hired to backpack samples of the ore from the peak to the town of Tofte. Once a week they would ship the rock out on the steamer "America". Several tunnels were blasted in the peak but except for a small vein of copper the "ore" was not the super-good abrasive they had dreamed of.

Various other developments were causing a change of plans, not least of all a shortage of money. A chemist had discovered an electrolytic process for manufacturing a synthetic abrasive material that was far superior to corundum or any other natural ore. The cost of manufacturing gradually dropped. This product was called "Garborundum" a copyrighted name. This is still the most widely used abrasive. 3M turned to Garborundum.

So it was this "boom" that died at our doorsteps. Shares in the company were exchanged - two shares for a shot, and cheap whiskey at that. The mine shaft gradually caved in as the logs rotted, except for a pile of tailings at its entrance there is little evidence left of the connection of one of America's giant corporations with the short-lived boom town of Tofte.

What Our Guests Say

"It's very early, the clock says 5:30, I think. My dog Brandy has had her walk, food and drink. The rising sun from Lake Superior's waters is the link. A dark cool night becomes a bright warm day, quick as a wink.

My wife joins us, bringing some fruit, a bagel and tea. It's quiet, no need to speak, enjoying this peace, you see. Sea Gulls, now awake, fly by, followed by a bee. Soon other sounds, the wind, waves, rustling leaves from a tree.

We ride our bikes from the Coho Cafe to Tofte Park and back. The air holds smells of wood smoke, flowers, a pancake stack. Taking a moment for rest at the boat landing ... my back. Says thanks ... my lab drinks and swims the water, her knack.

Biking now complete, we take our rackets to the tennis court. We even hit a few as we pant, wheeze and snort. People walking past smile and say "Hello" as they report their special plans for this day, each of a different sort.

Exchanging our tennis shoes for hiking boots, we seek a short drive to the trailhead of our climb toward Carlton Peak. Forty minutes of easy trail brings the summit, its'; view so sweet. Feeling the gentle wind, warm sun our very own retreat.

We hurry down the trail back, not wanting to be late cleaning up, changing clothes, eating a little from our plate. Can't miss our massage time, first I go, then my mate. Muscles loosen and tension eases as they participate.

Slowly we ease into the jacuzzi, it's quiet time. Candlelight dances and reflects in our glass of wine. Climbing into bed tonight at nine will feel just fine. If every day was like this we could handle the grind.

When we come to the North Shore and to Bluefin Bay it's not hard to find fun things to do each and every day. Tomorrow brings an end, we must pack and drive away. A piece of us will remain here forever to stay."

—Dick Marrs

Lake Superior Facts

Lake Superior is the largest, cleanest, and most pristine of the Great Lakes. It is the largest freshwater lake in the world by surface area. It is 350 miles long and 160 miles wide. This gives the lake a surface area of 31,700 square miles, larger than the combined areas of Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont. Lake Superior has 2,726 miles of shoreline. Its average depth is 489 feet with a maximum depth of 1,333 feet. It has a volume of 2,934 cubic miles, enough to flood all of North and South America with 12 inches of water.

The lake's level is controlled by gates on the St. Mary's River in Sault Ste. Marie. By order of the International Joint Commission, the level may not exceed 602 feet (183 m) above sea level. Lake Superior has a retention time of 191 years, that being the amount of time needed for the water in the lake to be completely replaced.

Surface currents are affected by prevailing winds and by temperature differences in the water areas. The patterns are complex, but (continued on back)

Calendar of Events

JUNE 2004

- 1-17 Spring Fever Special and Seniors' Weeks at Bluefin Bay
- 19 Grandma's Marathon (Duluth)
- 20 Father's Day
- 21 Summer Solstice
- 24-27 Attack of the Lake People, comedy, Arrowhead Center for the Arts

JULY 2004

- 1 Canada Day
- 1-4 Attack of the Lake People, comedy, Arrowhead Center for the Arts
- 4 Independence Day (Tofte Parade, Tofte Trek, Fireworks over Lake Superior)
- 24 West End Garden Club Flower Show
- 29-31 Communicating Doors, Thriller/Farce, Arrowhead Center for the Arts

AUGUST 2004

- 1, 5-8 Communicating Doors, thriller/farce, Arrowhead Center for the Arts
- 5-8 Grand Marais Fisherman's Picnic (Food, crazy days, fun, fireworks, street dances and parade)
- 13-15 North Shore Dragon Boat Festival
- 13-15 Rendezvous Days, Grand Portage
- 26-27 The Cemetery Club, romantic comedy, Arrowhead Center for the Arts
- 29-31 Seniors' Weeks at Bluefin Bay

SEPTEMBER 2004

- 1-2 Seniors' Weeks at Bluefin Bay
- 2-5 The Cemetery Club, romantic comedy, Arrowhead Center for the Arts
- 6 Labor Day
- 11-12 Annual Pleine-Aire Competition, Art Colony
- 20 Fall Equinox

OCTOBER 2004

- 12 Columbus Day
- 21-31 The Women in Black, thriller/ghost story, Arrowhead Center for the Arts (not showing 25-27)
- 21-23 MEA Weekend
- 22-24 Moose Madness (Moose gifts, chocolate, scavenger hunt, moose calling)
- 24 Autumn Quiet Time begins at Bluefin Bay
- 24 Gales Special starts at Bluefin Bay

NOVEMBER 2004

- 1-30 Gales Special at Bluefin Bay
- 5-6 Food & Wine Lover's Weekend
- 11 Veteran's Day & Remembrance Day (Canada)
- 25 Thanksgiving

Seniors' Weeks

May 16-June 17, 2004
August 29-September 9, 2004
Except Holiday Periods

Seniors' Weeks Special Includes:
25% off Lodging Sunday-Thursday
Discounted Greens Fee at Superior National
Valid for those ages 62 and older
2 night minimum

LAKE SUPERIOR FACTS (continued)
in the far western part of the lake, the currents generally run clockwise, and counter-clockwise in the larger eastern section.

Lake Superior's water is often referred to as "crystal clear", with visibility of 50 feet or more. The lake is also known for its cold temperatures. Almost all of Lake Superior's water stays at 39 degrees Fahrenheit (4 degrees Celsius) all year. Surface temperatures are around 40 degrees Fahrenheit in June and in the upper 50s to 60s by August.

Lake Superior's drainage basin is rich in natural resources and scenic beauty. It is sparsely populated and economically dependent on its natural resources including metals, minerals, forest, and recreation opportunities such as national lakeshores, and national/state/provincial parks.

Lake Superior is one of the cleanest lakes in the world because of its temperature, size, and the lack of people living around it. This one body contains three quadrillion (3,000,000,000,000,000) gallons of water, more than 10% of all the freshwater in the all the lakes and rivers in all the world.



ANDREW TOFTE, SR. HOME CIRCA 1910. PICTURED ARE SIGVARD, HANS, LIZZIE, JOHANNA, ESTHER, CELIA, ELVIA & TONY ENGELSON; NELS, LISA & ALVERT TOFTE; ANDY, ANDREW SR., SONNEVA & TED TOFTE; JOHN, ALVIN, CECELIA, ELIZABETH & HYALMER TOFTE.

ALMOND PARMESAN CRUSTED WALLEYE

Key Ingredients

- 4 (6 to 8 ounce) walleyed pike or tilapia fillets
- kosher salt and pepper to taste
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 4.5 ounces Bluefin Bay Almond Parmesan Herb Crust Breeding*
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- Thomas Fish Camp™ Tartar Sauce, (optional)

Directions

Season fillets with salt and pepper. Pour buttermilk into shallow bowl. Pour breading into another shallow bowl.

Dip fillets into buttermilk; transfer to breading and press breading into surface of fillets.

Preheat large cast iron skillet over medium-high heat. Add oil and heat until oil is hot but not smoking.

Arrange fillets in skillet. Cook without moving 3 to 4 minutes. Carefully turn fillets over and continue to cook an additional 3 to 5 minutes or until fish is done.

Transfer to serving platter and serve immediately with tartar sauce and cabbage slaw from Byerly's Deli.

4 servings

Thanks to Sue Erickson Executive Chef, Lunds & Byerlys for this recipe.

*Available at Lunds & Byerlys or at www.northcoastfarms.com

WHAT OUR GUESTS SAY (continued)

This was our first time at Bluefin Bay. It was just as beautiful as everyone had told us! One of the nicest rooms we have ever stayed in. We will be back." Mike & Jill

Sometimes you take for granted the wonderful things in life: conversation, family dinners ... a hike through the woods. This vacation gave us a chance to rediscover what's really important. Its hard to leave this slice of heaven but at least we leave with a renewed attitude and renewed appreciation of the people we love. Veneeta & Josh

WIN THREE NIGHTS AT BLUEFIN BAY

Just opt into our email system to receive the Fishwrapper and our Special Offers via email and you will be entered to win a three night stay at Bluefin Bay (some restrictions apply). Just go to www.bluefinbay.com

F.Y.I.

FOOD & WINE LOVERS

Block your calendar and make your reservation soon for our Autumn Food & Wine Lovers Weekend, November 5 & 6, 2004 at Bluefin Bay. Our Guest Chef will be Todd Bolton, Executive Chef of the Parasole Group (Manny's, Oceanaire, Chino Latino, Filio, Muffeletta).

NEW MENUS

When you are next at Bluefin, stop into the Bluefin Restaurant or the Breakers Bar & Grill to enjoy our new menu offerings, created to reflect the simple elegance of the North Shore.

ON-LINE RESERVATIONS

Made possible with our new high speed connection, Guests will soon be able to make

reservations online at www.bluefinbay.com. Check our website and give it a try or, if you prefer, just call 1-800-BLUEFIN as usual.

WEATHER

Ever wonder what the weather is at Bluefin Bay, while you are sitting at your office or home? Wonder no longer. You can now logon to www.bluefinbay.com and see for yourself anytime of the day or night.

NORTH COAST FARMS

Their new website is now available at www.northcoastfarms.com where you can order Bluefin Bay products using the new shopping cart. Or just stop in at Lunds, Byerlys or Kowalskis where you can purchase them off the shelf.

FOR YOUNG, OLD AND EVERYONE IN-BETWEEN

MONDAY

Morning Sea Kayak Tour
Afternoon Sea Kayak Tour
Welcome to Bluefin Campfire

TUESDAY

Carlton Peak Hike-n-Bike
Paper Windsock Building
Afternoon Sea Kayak Tour
Campfire & S'mores

WEDNESDAY

Grampa Woo III Lake Superior Tours
Temperance River Guided Hike
Sea Kayak Demo
Campfire, Live Music & S'mores
Bluefin Family BBQ

THURSDAY

Oberg Mountain Guided Hike
Nature Scavenger Hunt
Campfire & S'mores

FRIDAY

Heartbreak Hill Mountain Bike Ride
Movie Night
Campfire & S'mores

SATURDAY

Sea Kayak Demo
Afternoon Sea Kayak Tour
Kids Kite Building/Flying
Campfire & S'mores

SUNDAY

Afternoon Sea Kayak Tour
Campfire & S'mores

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE

Relax your muscles. Sooth your Spirit. Available everyday at Bluefin Bay!

Activities every day and each week from May 28th to August 31st. Register for all activities at the Guest Services Center or by calling 800-BLUEFIN (258-3346).

Schedule subject to change. Start dates vary for some activities.