

# The Fishwrapper



ALL NEW SUMMIT CHALET

## A MODERN DAY STORY OF HEROISM

Headline in the Cook County NewsHerald read "Bravery, Luck Save 4 from drowning". But for the fast action and heroism of Captain Darren Peck of the good ship Tofte Charters, four men could have lost their lives when their boat overturned in heavy seas of Lake Superior about one half-mile from the entrance to the Temperance River. Captain Darren of Tofte Charters and Guest Service Manager at Bluefin Bay, had just come off the lake and was about to load up his boat when heard on his marine radio the Coast Guard announce that there was a vessel in distress.

At first, he thought the call came from Bayfield, Wis. but then he heard the name of the boat - the Lonestar - which he had passed earlier, so he knew it was near the Temperance. But he couldn't raise them on the radio. Then he heard the Coast Guard report that the boat had capsized and there were four people in the water - Tom Muntean, captain of the Lonestar and his passengers Nate Sheils, Rollie Daubanton and Dan Ryan. Darren knew that the U.S. Coast Guard Station in Grand Marais had closed for the season and now the nearest Coast Guard station was in Duluth - 100 miles away. He immediately called his wife to make sure that Tofte Rescue had been called. Then he took off - by himself. The wind had built and the waves were three to five feet high. As he fought his way toward the survivors, they held on for their lives for more than 30 minutes as waves crashed over the small section of the boat that was still afloat.

"I could talk to Tofte Rescue on the shore and they could see three people, not four," Darren said. "So I became worried that maybe somebody was drifting off." He and every fisherman knows that Lake Superior's water can be deadly - hypothermia kicks in quickly at 50 degrees. The men on the capsized Lonestar knew that too. But, like many elements in this story - lady luck was there. The water was 64 degrees that day, giving them an edge as they waited for rescue.

As with so many stories of the sea, one problem had quickly led to another and ended in near disaster for these men. About noon the wind had picked up and the waves had begun to build, then a rope, which had somehow gotten loose and floated to the stern, got caught in the kicker motor's prop, stalling the engine. The men worked to get the rope free when all of a sudden, a big wave came over the stern. They started bailing but the weight of water lowered the boat and more waves crashed in. Muntean just had enough time to get to the radio and call out a mayday and the name of the boat when his radio went dead. The water had soaked the batteries and the main engine wouldn't start. The boat breached, and within seconds, another wave flipped it over. "It just happened so quick," Daubanton said. "Tom and I went down but neither of us got trapped. Dan and Nate grabbed us right away and got us to the boat." The only surface of the boat above the water was about the size of a small desk. "The waves slammed into us. We had to cling onto each other. If you let go of anybody, you'd get washed off." At this point, Sheils reached in his pocket and found his cell phone. He tried several calls and finally got through to his friend Chad Morawitz, a contractor working in Tofte. Morawitz called 911 and headed for Schroeder. Cook County Deputies scrambled immediately, setting out from Grand Marais with the 22-foot Crestliner on a trailer. As they reached Lutsen, they heard on the radio that Darren had already arrived at the capsized boat. By that time, the seas had built to five to eight feet. "Our boat would have been hard-pressed to handle those seas," said the deputy.

It was touch and go for Peck - and the men, too. The sea was so rough that Darren didn't dare go too close to the capsized boat. Muntean, had no life jacket so the first thing he did was put a lifejacket in a dip net and passed it across to Tom. "It was unbelievable what he did," Daubanton said. "It was huge what he did. He risked his life." (Continued on back)

## Great Ski Deals

### Lutsen Mtns / Bluefin Bay

#### First Tracks

2 for 1 Lodging and 2 for 1 Value Season Lift Tickets. Valid 11/18 - 19; 11/23 - 11/26; 12/2 - 3 and 12/9 - 12/21/06

#### Half Price Holidays

Purchase a 4 or 5 day lift/lodging package for Christmas, Get Holiday Rates at 50% off. Valid for arrivals 12/21 (4 or 5 day) or 12/22 (4-day only)

#### January 3 for 2

Stay 3 nights and get one of those FREE. Valid for arrivals 1/1 - 1/31/07

#### February Family Ski Weeks

Purchase a 4+ day lift/lodging package, get one night Free. Plus Kids 6 - 12 Ski Free, Stay Free, Eat Free, and get 3 Free Lessons. Valid for arrivals 2/1 - 2/28/07



## Holiday Gift Cards

Give the gift of Bluefin Bay this Holiday Season, or at any time of the year, with a Bluefin Gift Card. Whether it is a loved one, friend, relative, boss or employee, Bluefin Gift Cards are the perfect gift and available in any denomination by calling 1-800-BLUEFIN. Let us know where to send them and we will take care of the rest.

NO SHIPPING & HANDLING FEES.

**WAITED UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE?**

No problem, we can ship via overnight delivery at your direction and at cost.

## "BEST HONEYMOON RESORT" Minnesota Bride Magazine

For the second year in a row, at the Awards Ceremony of the Minnesota Bride Magazine, Rob Buntz, Founder and Co-owner of Bluefin Bay, accepted this award given by the readers. As Rob said, "On behalf of our staff at Bluefin Bay, I am grateful and honored to accept this award. It is a great recognition for our incredible, dedicated staff who, every day, work to make our Guest's experience the best it can be - sending them home refreshed and renewed. Whether it is at the Front Desk checking in a Guest, providing a relaxing massage at our SuperiorWaters Wellness Center or preparing a great meal at the Bluefin Grille, they give it their all. I thank you and them for this award."

# Calendar of Events

## DECEMBER 2006

### GALES OF DECEMBER SPECIAL

- 1 Winter Activities Start at Bluefin Bay
- 21 Winter Solstice
- 21 Last day of Autumn Quiet Time at Bluefin
- 25 Christmas Day
- 26 Boxing Day (Canada)
- 31 New Year's Eve

## JANUARY 2007

### JANUARY 3 for 2 SPECIAL

- 1 New Year's Day
- 4 - 7 Snow Ball at Lutsen Mts.
- 15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 28 John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon begins

## FEBRUARY 2007

### FEBRUARY 4 for 3 SPECIAL

- 2 Ground Hog Day
- 2 - 4 Family Festival at Lutsen Mts.
- 14 Valentine's Day - Happy Birthday Dennis
- 19 President's Day

## MARCH 2007

### MARCH WEEKENDS at MIDWEEK RATES

- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 20 Spring Equinox
- 31 Spring Carnival at Lutsen Mts.

## APRIL 2007

### SPRING FEVER SPECIAL

## F.Y.I.

### ALL NEW [www.bluefinbay.com](http://www.bluefinbay.com)

Check out our brand new website at [www.bluefinbay.com](http://www.bluefinbay.com) View our new Virtual Tours of the property and accommodations, make reservations online and purchase Gift Cards. And, of course, please email your comments to us at [buntz@bluefinbay.com](mailto:buntz@bluefinbay.com)

### ICE SKATING

Ice skating on the Bluefin rink continues to be a popular winter activity for young, old and all in between. As in years past, we will continue outdoor movie nights on the rink complete with hot chocolate and goodies. When we are not showing movies, the rink is lighted at night. So, on your winter visit, remember to bring your skates so you can enjoy this great new facility. AND, if you forget your skates, no problem, we have lots of skates available, complimentary to Guests, at the Guest Services Center. So, come join us for a fun-filled and romantic experience.

### X-C SKIING

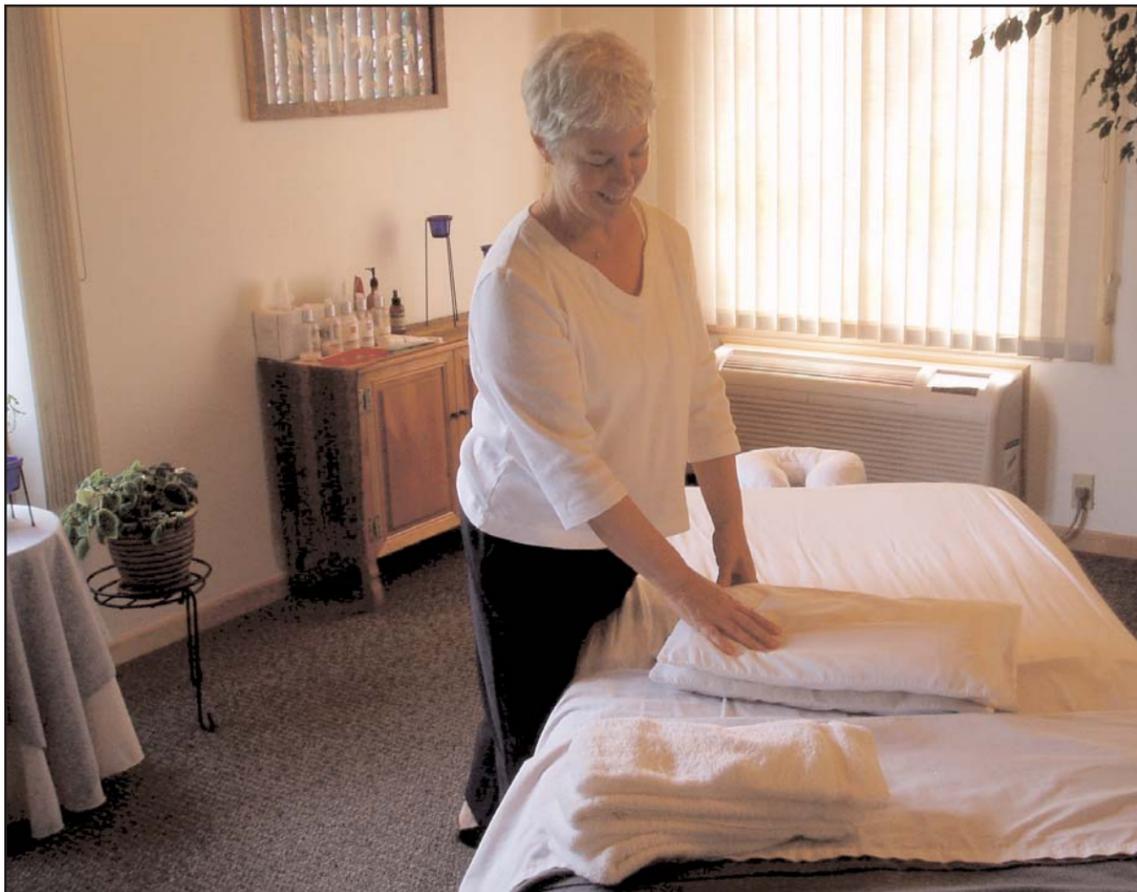
The best trails of the North Shore Cross Country Ski Trail System are located right in Tofte and accessible across Highway 61 and at the many trailheads to which you can drive or take our Complimentary Shuttle Bus. Try out the Sugar Bush Loops or maybe take a guided tour. Whether you like to skate ski, or diagonal on some of 250 km of groomed and tracked trails - or maybe bushwack through nearly unlimited forests - there is terrain for every level and interest of x-c skiing close by to Bluefin Bay. You can bring your own equipment or use some of ours Complimentary to Bluefin Guests and available at the Guest Services Center.

### FOOD & WINE LOVERS

A great time was had by all Guests who attended the November Food & Wine Lovers Weekend at Bluefin Bay. The next event is May, 2007. So make your reservations TODAY by phoning 1-800-BLUEFIN and savor great food and wines while enjoying the majesty of America's North Coast.

### CALENDAR CONTEST

The 2007 Calendar is out and the Calendar Contest for 2008 is underway. Just go to [www.bluefinbay.com](http://www.bluefinbay.com) for rules and submissions information. We look forward to receiving your entries.



NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED MASSAGE THERAPIST, SALLY BELL, PREPARES FOR A HEATED STONE THERAPY SESSION AT BLUEFIN'S SUPERIORWATERS WELLNESS CENTER.

## Happy Birthday!

### SUPERIORWATERS WELLNESS CENTER

Our SuperiorWaters Wellness Center is now one year young and has a staff of eight well-trained therapists enabling expanded hours to serve Guests. Located at the center of Bluefin Bay, SuperiorWaters has become so popular that we urge you to make an appointment at the same time you make your reservation to stay with us. Just call 1-800-BLUEFIN and the Guest Services staff will set you up for any of the wonderful and relaxing therapies including: Heated Stone Massage Therapy, Deep Tissue Massage Therapy, Swedish or Esalen Massage, Prenatal Massage Therapy, Couples Massage, Skin Restorative Seaweed

Pack, Partial Body Therapies, Myofascial and Neuromuscular Therapy and more. In the coming year the Center staff will add yoga and Pilates classes, as well as other wellness related classes and workshops. Description of the services provided at Superior Waters is available on-line at [www.bluefinbay.com](http://www.bluefinbay.com) and click through to Massage Therapy. Whether you come to SuperiorWaters for a hour or for the whole day, our staff is ready to make your stay a memorable experience in this warm and tranquil world designed to let the rest of the world just fall away.

## HISTORY of BLUEFIN BAY(continued)

*We left our story from the last issue of the Fishwrapper with our then young developer struggling to operate the Edgewater Resort while planning for the development to come. As we said, the Tofte Family and others were great supporters. As Tommy Hansen, creator of the Edgewater, said to Rob after the closing, "I know you will do things here which I dreamed of doing. You will put Tofte on the map. I wish you the best."*

Tom and Madeline Hansen had come from Norway to Tofte where they met Hans Engelsen. In 1935, Tom and Madeline rented rooms from Engelsen and, as Tom also was a commercial fisherman, rented the fishhouse where Tom operated commercial fishing until 1946. As Tommy Hansen wrote, "Engelsen was a commercial fisherman on Lake Superior and a prominent man who took very much interest of this area. In 1936, his property consisted of a 16-room house, which was used by Engelsen for a commercial store, home, post office and telephone central. Two large fish houses, two warehouses and a garage. The garage was owned and operated by Dave Lind Chevrolet." In 1936 Tom and Madeline purchased the fishing site from Engelsen, plus the garage and property from David Lind. The following year, they built the first Edgewater Inn, which they operated for three months during each summer along with Tom's fishing industry. In 1946 the Hansens started a general store in addition to the restaurant business and from then on kept the store and restaurant open all year around.

For five years, Tom had an idea of building

lodging for the tourist industry, which began to be more popular along this area. There were cabins and tourist courts but Tom wanted to build a motel. 'I don't know where I got the motel name from, as I could not find the name in the dictionary.' So in 1949, the Hansens started taking down all the old buildings, including the fish houses, to make space for the new Edgewater Motel. In 1963, the one-story restaurant was replaced with a new three-story structure to be used for a commercial store, dining room and convention room. The Hansens operated their business successfully for 34 years until it was sold. The next few owners were not so fortunate - including our young developer who had overlooked a few important facts. The first was that the restaurant business is tough and he had never been in it before except as a busboy. There are many good reasons that 80% of independent restaurants go broke within 3 years. He also had not noticed that the economy had taken a severe downturn in 1981 with interest rates rising to 17.5% for a home mortgage and 21% for prime. But he plowed ahead.

(More in the next issue).

**Heroism continued** The waves were twisting and throwing the boats around, but somehow he managed to maneuver his close enough so that two of the men could jump on the bow. The other two men were pulled up over the stern. Safe, safe at last. The four men still can't quite believe what

happened to them - a fun day of fishing had turned into a frightening brush with death in a few seconds. They held together and didn't panic and that helped them survive. That and the heroism of a modern day fisherman carrying out the rule of the sea practiced for hundreds of years - to come to the aid of other seafaring men.