

The Fishwrapper



The cast and crew of *Holiday Beach* filmed on Lake Superior near Taconite Harbor. This photo is taken by our very own Darren Peck, Tofte Charters, who served as a runner for the film crew that day. The boat used in the film shoot is the "Mary Alice," which was rented from the Tofte Historical Society.

Holiday Beach Comes to the North Shore

Bluefin's Coho Café feeds cast and crew

For about a week in May, Lake Superior became the Pacific Ocean; Temperance River State Park doubled as Kodiak Island, Alaska; the Lutsen/Tofte area became home to about 40 cast and crew; and Bluefin Bay's Coho Café became caterer to the stars.

The scene: An independent feature film being produced in Minnesota, called "Holiday Beach." The local actors and crew transformed the Lutsen/Tofte area into a mini-Hollywood with cameras, lights, and sound trucks. First stop: Temperance River State Park for a couple of overnight shoots along the shore and the river gorge. Then they traveled to Palisade Head, before finishing the week filming on the lake in a small boat near Taconite Harbor, Schroeder.

And, Action: All of those people had to eat to keep up their creative energy, and it was cook Patty Wilson and the cast and crew of Coho Café who were all too happy to oblige. Coho Café catered meals for the cast and crew with menus ranging from homemade chicken pot pies to lasagna to pork chops with homemade cream of mushroom soup. According to Patty, everything was made from scratch. "It was fun to do something different from the creative aspect," Patty said at week's end. And she was all too happy to test some of her creations on staff and Coho customers.

Debbie Neitzke, Assistant Manager Coho Café, discovered the movie shoot by talking

to the crew when they were in the area to scout filming locations and stayed at Bluefin Bay. Debbie suggested Coho cater the meals, and then Patty and Debbie prepared the week's menus.

The Plot: *Holiday Beach* is set in 1962 on a remote naval base on Kodiak Island, Alaska, where the sun never shines and the weather is cold and wet (Lake Superior?!). Navy radiomen come to the Island (Temperance State Park) on 13-month duty tours and count the days until they leave. The plot thickens when the base is put on alert during the Cuban Missile Crisis and Seaman Deuce Harding - a psychopath who beats up radiomen on the Island - wants to go to Cuba to fight Commies. When denied, Harding decides to get even with the Navy. The movie's culmination coincides with the culmination of the Missile Crisis.

That's a wrap: *Holiday Beach* is directed by Steve Larson, and produced by Julie Kaupa. Both are St. Paul filmmakers, whose work has appeared on the Independent Film Channel. According to Larson, the shooting on the North Shore went well and Lake Superior with her many moods was happy to oblige. The shooting is now complete (after three weeks filming at Camp Ripley) and the film will be in post production this summer. The North Shore community has been promised a special screening of *Holiday Beach* when it is released. We'll keep you posted on premier dates and times.

Editors Note

It has been more than 25 years since I began writing *The Fishwrapper* and I want to thank you all for reading it - at least occasionally. With this issue, I hand over the reins to others. I hope you enjoy the latest installment of *The Bluefin History*. With luck, I will continue to fill in the gaps with an occasional history piece.

I want to thank the many folks who have contributed to the *Wrapper* with stories and photos and much more. I particularly want to thank Captain Darren Peck, Guest Services Manager, for his countless hours, keeping me in line, contributing to and laying out the *Wrapper*.

- Rob Buntz, *Bluefin Bay* Founder

2007 Summer Activities

Bluefin now offers thematic outdoor explorations that are family friendly ... creating interactive, entertaining and informative experiences that bring the northwoods alive!

Art in the Woods

Watercolor Paint & Sketch at Temperance River/Caribou River.
Printmaking at Oberg Mt/Cascade/Sugarloaf Cove.

Animals in the Woods

Birding by Ear & Observation: Grand Marais Harbor.
Wolves: A cry in the night (US Forest Service).
Beavers: See the lodge & have a weenie roast at the base of Carlton Peak.
Art of Tracking: Identify footprints, scat, homes of northwoods animals along the Superior Hiking Trail.

History in the Woods

Complimentary tickets to the North Shore Fish Museum.

Music in the Woods

Northern acoustic folk music sung by Joe Paulik around the campfire.

At the Lodge

Sea kayaking instruction along Bluefin's coast & inland lakes.
Children's programs.
Explore the shore/agates & more (USFS).
Superior Waters Wellness Center.
Welcome Barbecue!

Into the Blue

Half day/full day guided hiking & kayaking adventures to area destinations such as Eagle Mt., Tettegouche State Park, Manitou River, or Baptism River, to name a few.

New to our summer staff this year is **Desiree Laitinen**, our naturalist on site. She comes to us from Wolf Ridge with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education and Post Baccalaureate in Environmental Education.

Calendar of Events

JULY 2007

- 1 Canada Day
- 1, 5 - 8 Barbecuing Hamlet (Grand Marais Playhouse)
- 4 Independence Day (Tofte Parade, Tofte Trek & Fireworks over the Lake)
- 7 Mila Vocal Ensemble - with The Niks (North Shore Music Association)
- 14 Cavern Beat - A Beatles Tribute Band (Grand Marais Playhouse)
- 26 - 29 North Shore Dragon Boat Festival (Grand Marais Harbor)
- 26 - 29 Always ... Patsy Cline (Grand Marais Playhouse)

AUGUST 2007

- 2 - 5 Fisherman's Picnic (Grand Marais)
- 2 - 5 Always ... Patsy Cline (Grand Marais Playhouse)
- 10 - 12 Grand Portage Pow Wow & Rendezvous
- 18 Michael Martin Murphy (North Shore Music Association)
- 23-26,30 Over the River and Through the Woods (Grand Marais Playhouse)
- 24 - 31 Plein Aire Outdoor Painting Competition (Grand Marais Art Colony)
- 26 Senior Weeks Start at Bluefin Bay

SEPTEMBER 2007

- 1 - 2 Over the River and Through the Woods (Grand Marais Playhouse)
- 3 Labor Day
- 3 - 6 Senior Weeks continue at Bluefin Bay
- 9 Grandparent's Day
- 28 - 30 Unplugged IV - The Northern Harvest (North House Folk School)

F.Y.I.

BLUEFIN BAY IN NEW YORK TIMES

If you're an avid New York Times reader, you no doubt saw that Lake Superior's North Shore and Bluefin Bay graced its pages on June 1, 2007 in an article titled "Minnesota's 'Freshwater Ocean' Attracts a New Generation." Rob Buntz and Bluefin condo owner, Nate Morris, were among those quoted in the article and Bluefin Bay was listed as a place to check out. If you missed the article, for a time, you can view it here:
<http://travel.nytimes.com/2007/06/01/travel/esca pes/01havens.html>

FOOD & WINE LOVERS

A great time was had by all Guests who attended the May Food & Wine Lovers Weekend at Bluefin Bay. The next event is November 2 & 3, 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.

AVANTI SAILING CHARTERS

The beautiful and majestic 42 foot sailing vessel, Avanti, is again available for charters. Just phone 1-800-258-3346 for information and reservations.

BIKES

The Bluefin bike fleet is complimentary to Bluefin guests. You can experience the many designated bike trails surrounding Bluefin and in the Superior National Forest, bushwhack on your own down old logging roads OR enjoy a more leisurely ride along the Gitchi Gami Bike Trail on our NEW Trek Navigators.

TOFTE CHARTERS

Fishing charters on the big lake are back again this year with Captain Darren Peck at the helm. Darren does a great job, so make your reservations early. Just call 1-866-663-9932 now for information and reservations. (www.toftecharters.com)

STAY & PLAY

Now - October 2007, stay at Bluefin Bay and play the Superior National Golf Course with breathtaking views of Lake Superior.

Packages start from \$67 per person/per day, including two nights of lodging, 18 holes of golf including cart and driving range. Summer rates based on double occupancy. Rates vary depending on season and room style chosen. Call 1-800-Bluefin for more information.

Hint: All greens break toward the lake, no matter what they look like.

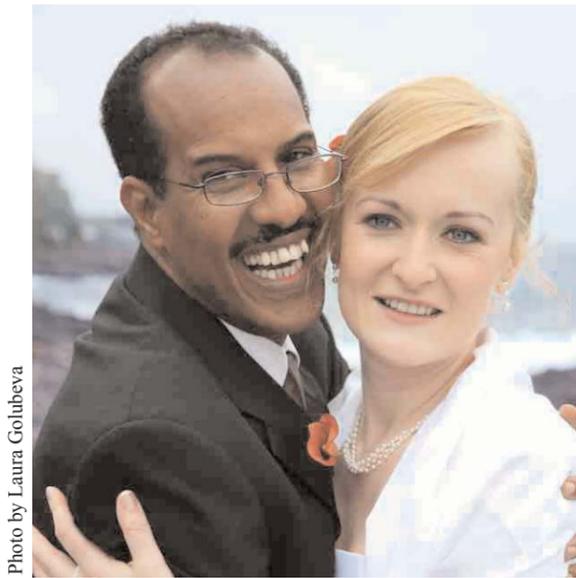


Photo by Laura Golubeva

Simply Elegant Weddings at Bluefin Bay

Voted "Minnesota's Most Romantic Resort" (Minnesota Monthly Magazine), Bluefin Bay has long been known as a premier honeymoon resort. But, Bluefin is increasingly booked with simple, elegant weddings - like this one for Youseff and Marketa Blal held June 2, 2007.

There's nothing more romantic than Bluefin's unique setting overlooking Lake Superior, combined with the elegance and excellent catering of the Bluefin Grille. "Bluefin is becoming an even more popular choice for weddings," said Nadya Maravigli, Food & Beverage Director.

Bluefin has weddings booked every weekend this summer, catering three special occasion events the

last weekend in June! "Brides tell us they find our facilities incredible and the catering staff one of the best in the area. I think it's because we care as much about the wedding and the details as the brides do," Nadya said.

For more information on Bluefin's weddings and special events call 218-663-6200.

Award Winning Bluefin Team Members

Rita Wehseler, the Baker at Coho Café, finished second in the Can-Am Crown 250 mile sled dog race in Fort Kent this past March. Rita, an avid dog sledder, is pictured here hugging her lead dogs "slow" Poke (right) and Ruby. Rita's second place finish was the highest for a female musher in the race's 15 year history. Congratulations Rita! (Photo courtesy of Bangor Daily News/Gabor Degre)



Captain Darren Peck of Tofte Charters, and our very own Guest Services Manager, was named Cook Country Volunteer of the Year at the 18th Annual Emergency Services Conference on April 28. Darren earned the award in recognition of service above and beyond the call of duty when he single handedly rescued four people from an overturned vessel on Lake Superior last September (story in autumn 2006 Fishwrapper). In a separate presentation, Tofte Fire & Rescue honored Darren with a Life Saving Water Rescue Award. Way to go, Darren!

History of Bluefin Bay (continued)

How We Got Our Name

In the last issue, we left our young developer with the American economy suffering from the severe downturn of 1981. Interest rates rose to 17.5% for a home mortgage and 21% for prime. Bank after bank said "NO" to the Bluefin project. They cited many reasons, but one of the most important was not mentioned - they were having problems of their own dealing with difficult economic times. Still, it did not matter, the financing was not available to proceed with Bluefin.

However, there were bright spots. The Tofte family was always very supportive of the re-development plans for the Edgewater and the Olson's Motel - and that was when Bluefin Bay was just a dream.

When plans for Bluefin were being developed, the project needed a name. Just about that time, Ted and Helen Tofte came to the Edgewater for breakfast. Ted and Helen were both retired; Ted from being a school superintendent and Helen from teaching.

On this particular day, Rob sat down with Ted & Helen and explained that it was time for a name. They tossed a few ideas back and forth. Since nothing presented itself right away, Rob asked if they would be willing to write down the names of ships that sailed Lake Superior, animals native to the area, fish native to the big lake and environment, and any other names and words which came to mind. Ted & Helen readily agreed, paid for their own breakfast and headed for home.

As Helen later described, Ted got right on the project, researching and contemplating what might be appropriate names. Apparently, he devoted much of the day to the endeavor and returned in the afternoon to the Edgewater, list in hand, looking for our young developer.

The list was long and contained many interesting names. Schooner Bay was among them, as were: Herring, Trout, Coho, Salmon, Bluefin of Herring, Bear, Wolf, the Steamship America, Edmund Fitzgerald, Bass, Deer, Moose and many others.

Clearly, they both agreed that Herring was not a good name with which to saddle what they hoped would be a successful project. Rob asked about Bluefin of Herring, and Ted explained it

was the name the old fishermen used to describe their biggest cash crop - herring. Ted was not sure why, but the old-timers called it Bluefin of Herring. Although the herring was filleted and placed in a salt brine for shipment to market in Duluth, Milwaukee, and Chicago, the fishermen ate the fresh fillets, fried in butter, oil or lard.

Of course, herring was on the menu at the Edgewater Restaurant as a breaded and deep fried entrée - and not very popular at that. Most patrons seemed to associate herring with the pickled kind that was shipped back in the old days. Many made jokes about herring, using it in the same sentence as Lutefisk. Garrison Keillor made fun of herring in its various forms on his "Prairie Home Companion Show." So, Rob and Ted decided the name Herring was out.

Schooner Bay seemed a really good name. And there was a bay right outside the windows of the Edgewater Restaurant. However, Schooner Bay had been used by many. So, they decided that Schooner Bay was also out. But, since there was a bay, it was a name worth combining with something else. Bluefin sounded like a great name. It conjured up images of the sea and almost no one knew it was a herring. So our young developer put Bluefin together with Bay and it seemed to fit. And, thus, Bluefin Bay was born.

After Ted left that day, Rob asked Chef Margit Rodne to cook up some bluefin in a pan with butter. It was delicious and became Rob's favorite fish. He changed the name on the menu from herring to bluefin, and offered it broiled, pan fried and the traditional deep fried. Soon, bluefin became the best selling item on the menu. Over the years, nearly every dining establishment on the North Shore adopted the name on their menus.