



THE CHAIN LETTER

June 1999 Volume 3, Number 2

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 Editor: Bill Downing, 38067 Forest Lane, Grand Rapids,
 MN 55744, 218-326-4730. wdowning@uslink.net. The
Chain Letter is a means of communication among Asso-
 ciation members, and it will work best if you contribute.
 Please send your comments, letters, historical notes,
 and news to the Editor *now*. See page 5 for deadline.

Minutes

Wabana Chain of Lakes Association

May 22, 1999

Wabana Community Center

Call to order. The meeting was opened at 9:30am by chairman Jon Rowe, with introductions by all members and guests. **Minutes** of the previous September 9, 1998 meeting were approved as mailed.

Treasurer's Report: Cathy Rudolph submitted the following report:

Balance as of 9-19-98	\$4,132.40
Received membership dues	\$ 160.00.
Total Income received:	\$ 160.00
Paid Out:	
Purchase of a financial CD for the association	\$2,000.00
Total Paid Out:	\$2,000.00
Balance as of 5-22-99	\$2,292.40

Current paid membership 55

The treasurer's report was approved as read.

The Itasca County Coalition of Lakes Association needs an additional representative from the Wabana Chain of Lakes Association to replace Phil Mergler. George Wilbert, the co-representative, reported there is one meeting per month and the I.C.O.L.A. organization is a very important connection for all of the lake associations to work together in Itasca County.

David Lick volunteered. Bill Downing moved that David Lick be approved as co-representative. Vote was unanimous. George Wilbert moved the Wabana Chain of Lakes Association pay the annual \$20. Membership fee to I.C.O.L.A., also approved.

Water Quality Testing Report:

Bill Downing reported that with Bob and Mary Gephart and David Lick they went out and began this season's lake water sampling on May 2nd. The goal is to do four collections during the year; ice out (which was done), spring – June, mid summer – end of July or early August, autumn – October when the lakes have turned over.

The water testing program is sampling 10 basins (sites within the Wabana Chain of Lakes) at least ten meters deep including; Trout Lake, Bluewater Lake, Interlachen (Little Trout), Little Wabana and Wabana Lakes. Chemicals tested for include phosphorus, nitrogen and chlorophyll at a total cost to the association of approximately \$2,000 per year. The testing program began in 1990 and Bill stressed "this is a very serious and important process, very few lake associations do this until they notice the water has become degraded".

A written summary of the testing program with a background theory, testing and recommendations was sent out to current members of the association in April 1999 volume of the Wabana Chain of Lakes Association, "The Chain Letter" by editor pro tem: Bill Downing. Copies of The Wabana Chain of Lakes Water Testing, 1990-1994 by William L. Downing, Ph.D., a finalized scientific study showing the specific data used in the process were made available at the meeting. The Water Quality Committee (Bob Gephart, George Wilbert and David Lick) are planning to continue the work with Dr. Downing. For information, copies of either the summary or the full report or to assist in the process, call or write Bob Gephart, 36744 Havenwood Drive, Grand Rapids, MN 55744, phone 218-327-1545.

Newsletter. The Wabana Chain of Lakes "The Chain Letter" newsletter will be published again in June, reported Jon Rowe, with the goal of doing three more this season. The deadline for articles for the next publication is June 1st. Bill Downing talked about the two articles from 1932 or 1933 which were printed in the Grand Rapids *Herald Review*. A fascinating description of the Wabana Chain area and its residents including the logging of area forests and how the lakes were used as giant holding ponds for the huge trees, lakes were dammed, water raised and logs transported by floating out to rivers. Bill is requesting permission to reproduce this in *The Chain Letter*. Bill also encouraged others to submit interesting historical information, including photos to share. Betsy Downing suggested folks that are new to the area write brief biographies introducing themselves, as the community is greatly interested in its neighbors. A brief article from the association's chairman, Jon Rowe was also requested for The Chain Letter publications. To submit information contact William L. Downing, 38067 Forest Lane, Grand Rapids, MN 55744, it is easiest for the editor if you e mail information to

wdowning@uslink.net, phone 218-326-4730.

Association membership was discussed. David Lick suggested encouraging area residents to belong to the association by personal invitation, which is very effective. Nancy Ellsworth stated that the association's mailing list needs to be updated. Ron Radecke and Ann Steele volunteer the printing and mailing list data but it would be best if members update the list when renewing or becoming members by sending their \$20. Annual dues to Cathy Rudolph, Treasurer, 36542 Havenwood Drive, Grand Rapids, MN 55744. Bud Sage suggested when we want to do mailings to the entire township, that we cross reference mailing lists with the Wabana Warbler township newsletter. Betsy Downing suggested the children of the many chain of lakes residents would like to get the lake association's newsletter but membership information needs to be easily accessible. Dick Chambers offered to write up the membership information for The Chain Letter's June publication. George Wilbert offered to get the chain of lakes association membership information into the township's Wabana Warbler.

Septic System educational information is being shared in the form of an article written for the Wabana Warbler newsletter from the Wabana Chain of Lakes Association, stated Jon Rowe. David Lick and George Wilbert are writing and submitting the article. David Lick stated that the contents not only included septic systems and their role in lake quality but also the prevention of lawn fertilizing near water. Bill Downing reminded folks that the phosphorus in fertilizer is the worst possible way to rapidly decrease water quality.

Secchi disk water testing methods were demonstrated by Nancy Ellsworth. Nancy listed the names of the Secchi disk readers in the chain, two are still needed, for Pickerel Lake and Little Wabana. Jon Rowe volunteered to do the readings at Little Wabana. Bill Downing suggested we coordinate area readings and print them in *The Chain Letter* throughout the summer. Jon Rowe explained that Itasca Soil and Water Conservation Agency is the local contact for the program and their goal this year is to increase by 100 new Secchi disk readers in Itasca County.

Bluewater road was discussed as work on the redesign and renovation of the road has been completed. Bob Manning has planted some 500 trees and hopes to do another cycle of planting in the fall as a landowner adjoining the new, much larger roadway along Bluewater Lake.

Private sale of lands to the Conservation Fund was reported on by Joel Solomon. Explaining the issues of closing costs involved with a sale, he updated the association on a proposal to The Blandin Foundation to set up a fund to assist with these costs. The proposal was denied, Joel stated he would continue to look into the issue keeping in contact with other organizations working toward a solution.

The Future of Itasca County for the Next 20 Years is a current study sponsored by the county commissioners and inviting public input. Joel

Solomon updated the association on the process the county is using. Both Joel and Bill Downing have attended public sessions and encouraged members to get involved.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 am by Chair Rowe.

Next meeting: Saturday, June 12, 1999

Upcoming meeting dates, July 10, August 14, September 11

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Lick, Secretary

REQUESTED ARTICLE

David Lick asked that the following article be written for the *Chain Letter*. We are glad to have the chance to print such a timely and important message.

THE LAKE-LOVER'S QUIZ:

- 1) Name the three things people enjoy most about Minnesota lakes.
- 2) What areas of the lakes provide the best fish habitat? (continued on page 3)
- 3) Where are people most likely to see birds and other wildlife?
- 4) What causes the green scum ("pea soup" or "dog days") on the lakes?
- 5) What is a common cause of shoreland erosion?

Read on to find the answers...

GETTING TO THE 'ROOTS' OF LAKE QUALITY

Wildlife, recreation, and a beautiful view are among the most common lures of any lake (answer to #1). Yet current shoreland practices are threatening these very things. One of the practices which is very damaging to our lakes is the removal of native shoreland vegetation. Both on land and in the water, native shoreland vegetation provides food, cover and nesting sites for wildlife (answer to #3) and fish (answer to #2). The equation is simple: No native vegetation = No wildlife + No fish.

In addition to supporting fish and wildlife, shoreland vegetation provides a protective "soft armor" against erosion. The fibrous and often deep roots of native shoreland plants are more effective than shallow-rooted turf grass in protecting shores from the erosive powers of water and ice. Aquatic plants provide additional shoreline protection. They serve as a natural wave break, dispersing wave energy before it reaches the shore. Without them, soil particles and lake sediments not anchored firmly in place by roots can enter the lake and produce murky water conditions (answer to #5).

Green scum can destroy the enjoyment of a lake. Plant roots also absorb nutrients which cause the scum to grow. These nutrients are then stored within the plant

during the growing season. Lawn fertilizer, yard and pet wastes, and effluent from failing septic system are common sources of nutrients that are readily transported in run-off. Algae blooms become a problem when nutrient-rich run-off is not intercepted by shoreland plants and enters the lake (answer to #4).

There are beautiful plant species native to northern Minnesota. Trees and shrubs do not have to obstruct a shoreland owner's view...they *are part of* the view. Replacing native shoreland vegetation with lawn may provide a clear view for the owner, but it reduces privacy and compromises the natural beauty of that part of the lake for others.

So, what can shoreland owners do to protect the quality of their lakes for future enjoyment? The answer depends on the current vegetation on the landscape. For owners of cleared lakeshore property, the goal is to create an area of native vegetation extending both into the water and up onto the shore and along half the width of the shoreline (more is better!). This can be accomplished as easily as not mowing that portion of the lawn and not removing weeds in that portion of the lake to allow the native seed bank to grow back. If a shoreland owner would prefer to design this area, native shoreland species can be purchased and planted to achieve the desired effect (a permit is required for aquatic plantings). For owners of undeveloped lakeshore property, the goal is to create a small "footprint" on the property while still providing for a view and recreational use. Remove trees, tree branches and shrubs one at a time, and only as necessary to accomplish the goal.

For more information on how to customize your shoreland for wildlife, view, recreation and water quality, contact:

Mary Blickenderfer
University of Minnesota Extension Service
1861 E. Hwy. 169
Grand Rapids, MN 55477
218-327-4616
mblickenderfer@extension.umn.edu

FROM PRESIDENT JON ROWE

**ADVANTAGES TO BELONGING TO THE
WABANA CHAIN OF LAKES ASSOCIATION**

Membership provides an opportunity to:

1. Be an active member of the community.
2. Get to know your neighbors in an expanding sphere.
3. Be an active participant in community affairs that affect your environment.

4. Be active in an association that:
 - Monitors and recommends water quality improvement measures.
 - Provides educational, advisory and/or conservation programs in:
 - * water quality management,
 - * wild life education,
 - * surface water use management,
 - * shore line land development,
 - * forest service management projects,
 - * road and scenic by-way updates,
 - * zoning and development issues,
 - * township activities, improvements and issues,
 - * boat in camp site projects and monitoring,
 - * land development issues, variances, changes, restrictions
 - * environmental issues, boating, hunting, land clearing, etc.
5. Be a participant in the meeting programs and to be a part of the decision making process in matters that affect our community, lakes and shorelines.
6. Keep abreast of County and State developments in land and water use subjects, tax issues, County Master planning, Federal forest programs, State Legislature decisions as they affect your community and to aid in expressing the Association's ideas as to these various subjects.
7. To be a part of the community decision-making group that can materially contribute to your family's well being, property care, and environmental improvement for a better life style and *protection of your investment*.

YOUR ASSOCIATION ENCOURAGES YOUR ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP.
WE NEED YOUR PARTICIPATION.

Dates and programs for meetings:
June 12: Mary Blickenderfer, University of Minnesota . "Lake Shorescaping".
July 10: Art Norton, Itasca Soil and Water Conservation District. "Why are Secchi disc readings deteriorating?"
August 14: Dan Bibieu, Itasca County Dive Team. "A Demonstration of Diving."
September 11: Carl Koller, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. "Lake Summaries".

LAKE TESTING PROGRESS REPORT #1
The results are back from the water samples we took on May 2.

**EARLY MAY ICE-OUT
1991 AND 1999 COMPARED**
Reported in micrograms per liter (ppb)

YEAR>	1991	1999

		10-May	2-May
DATES>			
CHLOROPHYLL A			
TN	Trout North	3.1	4.1
TS	Trout South	3.2	1.9
IN	Interlachen	4.8	3.6
BN	Bluewater North	2.5	2.4
BS	Bluewater South	3.7	7.6
LW	Little Wabana	7.2	5.0
WC	Wabana Central	3.4	3.9
WS	Wabana South	4.5	5.0
WW	Wabana Wakeman	2.5	5.0
WN	Wabana North	4.3	2.1
TOTAL PHOSPHORUS			
TN	Trout North	4.0	8.8
TS	Trout South	4.0	7.8
IN	Interlachen	5.0	11.2
BN	Bluewater North	5.0	8.4
BS	Bluewater South	10.0	12.1
LW	Little Wabana	19.0	34.6
WC	Wabana Central	5.0	9.1
WS	Wabana South	6.0	28.5
WW	Wabana Wakeman	12.0	11
WN	Wabana North	7.0	7.6
TOTAL NITROGEN			
TN	Trout North	250	190
TS	Trout South	600	200
IN	Interlachen	700	350
BN	Bluewater North	130	220
BS	Bluewater South	640	260
LW	Little Wabana	1000	630
WC	Wabana Central	500	260
WS	Wabana South	140	260
WW	Wabana Wakeman	530	640
WN	Wabana North	910	350

there is more phosphorus than there was formerly, to produce algae. If there was more chlorophyll to begin the year, we may well end up with more algae in the lakes than in previous years, since we may have more phosphorus to produce them. Time and further testing will give more information.

Reduced nitrogen is another kind of question. Here we are concerned more with the *kind* of algae than merely with the *amount*. If there is sufficient phosphorus, a shortage of nitrogen *will* limit growth of large water plants and tiny *green* algae, but nitrogen shortage will *not* limit the growth of *bluegreen* algae, since many bluegreens can act like nitrogen-fixing bacteria, taking nitrogen directly from the air. A reduction in nitrogen is not *necessarily* a good thing—if phosphorus is high, a reduction in N could encourage the growth of bluegreens. Bluegreens reproduce very rapidly, are slimy or ropy, usually smell bad, and many kinds of them produce chemicals that are toxic to other life in the water. We must guard particularly against them.

The basins in our chain of lakes that we need to watch carefully during the rest of the testing are Wabana South and Little Wabana, since both of them show surprisingly high phosphorus readings. It is hoped that residents of those two basins will prevent phosphorus from entering the lake, through pumping of their septic systems and use of no-phosphorus fertilizers on lawns. Wakeman's Bay, about which our former test results had raised suspicions, seems in better shape, possibly due to increased care of fertilizers and septic systems.

The figures from this one set of tests have nothing conclusive about them, but they are an indication of where we will need to focus attention during the rest of the summer. Further, it makes our Secchi disk readings even more important for the health of our lakes.

We expect our parameters to vary according to the time of year, so we have listed them so they can be compared with similar ice-out data from 1991. Nobody can draw definite conclusions from one set of numbers like these, but some tentative comments can be made:

Chlorophyll and phosphorus were apparently generally higher this May than they were at the same time of year, eight years ago, while nitrogen is generally lower. Since the ice had just gone out, the chlorophyll measured may show that more algae than usual lived over the winter. The phosphorus that we found is that which was released from living things that died during the winter, more than eight years ago. If the increase in phosphorus continues to show up during our 1999 testing year, it is not an encouraging sign—it means that

More about lake testing:

This is the year we plan to test at four critical times—ice-out (early May); spring, (late June); summer, (middle of August); and autumn after the lake overturn (October). Bob Gephart (218-327-1545) is listing names of volunteers, and you may want to get your name on the list. The work is not awfully strenuous, consisting of lowering a 50-foot plastic tube and pulling it back up a lot of times, but getting to all our ten basins takes a half a day even during fine weather. Our next collecting date will be the weekend of June 26-27.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR REGARDING PUBLICATIONS

1. The April 1999 issue of *The Chain Letter* contained a summary of the chemical testing of our chain of lakes in 1990, 1991 and 1994. We all tried hard to get a copy of that issue into every household involved in the chain, but mailing lists are never perfect. If you missed receiving a copy, please let me know and I will try to find some spares, and send you one. Otherwise I'll hold another printing.
2. Meanwhile, you can improve your chances of receiving future publications by up-dating your address listing. See the coupon on page 7 for updating your address and paying dues. Additionally, if you have relatives or others who would be interested in what is happening here, even if they are far away, we urge you to send their addresses on the form.
3. Also in April 1999 we published "Wabana Chain of Lakes Water Testing, 1990-1994", the *complete* report of that water testing. It is eleven pages long, and consists of tables and graphs of the actual numbers we obtained regarding chlorophyll, phosphorus and nitrogen samples from our ten lake basins. I ran 50 copies and gave them to President Jon Rowe at the June meeting, for him to give to interested members. If you want a copy, please ask Jon for one. If he runs out, please let me know and I'll run some more. For most people, though, the summary in the April *Chain Letter* is plenty.
4. Deadline for submission of material for publication in the July 1999 *Chain Letter* is Saturday June 27. This is necessary because you need the Minutes of the June 12 meeting for action at the July 10 meeting.
5. A thousand thanks to Anne and Ron Radecki for their many hours of addressing and mailing!

SECCHI DISC READINGS

Nancy Ellsworth has had great success in signing up members, getting discs and instructing readers for each of our sites and more! We will publish some results from them as soon as they are available. Congratulations to Nancy and volunteers!

History:

Bud Sage and Harold Unger are assembling a history of the bridges in the chain of lakes, which should be of great interest to all of us. Kathy Doty will be going over the boxes of information left by Miss Mildred Sebo, who owned and ran The American Girl Camp on Balgillow Island during the late Nineteen Twenties and early Thirties. Word from several other sources suggests that many people are very much interested in having a permanent archival home for old records they aren't sure what to do with. Please get in touch with Bud Sage (218-326-4535) and tell him what you would like to contribute.

DUES TIME!

The fiscal year of the Wabana Chain of Lakes Association ends on June 30th, and dues are payable by July 1 for the fiscal year 1999. On page 3 President Jon Rowe has included a lot of good reasons for membership in the Association. An additional reason is the receipt of *The Chain Letter*, which will keep you updated on activities, whether or not you are able to attend the meetings. Unless there is some good reason to continue, we will cease sending the newsletter to non-Members in the next fiscal year. Exception: please give Cathy Rudolph the addresses of your relatives who would like to be kept up-to-date.

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At the May meeting you were promised a story from the *Grand Rapids Herald Review*, first printed in the late Twenties or early Thirties, and reprinted here with permission. Warren Jewett found this in the Itasca County Historical Society archives and passed it along. The following is the first of apparently three articles, though we have only two of them. I have tried to make it look as much like a newspaper article as possible.

It would be a great kindness to all of us, if some of the really old-timers in our group would draw us a map of the places mentioned in here—the roads, the farm locations, and so on. Although I have been coming to Wabana for sixty years, a lot of the references leave me wondering. I promise to publish the map in the newsletter, if someone will draw it!

WABANA DISTRICT HAS INTERESTING HISTORY

*From the forest and the moorland
And the large lakes of the Northland
From the small lakes filled with
fishes*

*From the land of the Ojibways
The lure land of Chief Wabana
Mahug, the loon—the wild goose
Wa-ga*

*The blue heron, the shu-shuh-gah
And the grouse, the Mushkodasa
The moose and the red deer of game
the fleetest*

Call to you to pause and listen

*You who love the haunts of nature
Love the shadows of the forest
Love the dark and moody pine trees
And the wind among the branches
Love the rain showers, lakes and
moonlight*

*And canoes and lapping water
Pause and read this rude description
Of the haunts of Chief Wabana
Buried now on Isle Balgillow
Diadem of lake Wabana*

Wabana in the Ojibway tongue means "Many Bays" and is truly named. It offers variegated primeval beauty of shores lined with birches and pine, its waters yield the black bass, wall eyed pike, crappie, sun fishes, blue gill, great northern pike, musky and trout, while the woods surrounding it abound in wild fruits, and deer can be seen most anytime at the water's edge. The first white men to see Wabana Lake will never be known, however, white trappers and hunters were known to have frequented this beautiful territory. 'Twas back in about 1865 that Lorene Day's crew under the lead of his son West Day armed with axes and peavies pushed northward and entered what is now Wabana township. Up to this time the Indian held sway over this great fishing and hunting ground. A few old lumberjacks remember the sites of Indian camps which were located on Balgillow Island and on upper Buckman Cove. To West Day's

crew undoubtedly goes the honor of cutting the first trail from Grand Rapids to Clearwater and Wabana Lake. This trail later became known as the Prairie River road and in its early day wound from one logging camp to another. They established their first camp about ¼ mile north of the lower Wabana bridge on the old Prairie River trail and this remained his main camp during his Wabana operations. It is to this day known as the Day field and has furnished hay for most all of the settlers in the Clearwater section at one time or another. From here Day followed the stream to Clearwater and Wabana Lakes cutting only the choicest pines. He erected temporary dams at Clearwater, Wabana and Bluewater Lakes. John McCann was his camp foreman. The Government survey was made of this territory about 1869. Day had no competition until 1878 when McAlpine and Kirkpatrick came into the field. They are supposed to have cut the trail which for many years was known as part of the Bigfork Road, leaving the old Prairie River road at Pipers farm and swinging west along the south shores of little Wabana and big Wabana Lakes, going thru what is now known as the Wakeman place, passing thru Joyce's summer home. These trails were extended by various loggers.

Billy Meyer, a well known figure to the old timers, started his ranch or stopping place about 1880 on what is now known as the Henselin farm. It was not an unusual sight to see ten to fifteen loads stopping every night, each wagon or sled carrying loads up to five tons of supplies with four to six horses or oxen to the load, Up to about 1875 all the supplies were taken up streams in batteaux, then were used. It might not be amiss to mention here that the old Prairie river road and the Bigfork roads were the only roads leading north out of Grand Rapids and millions of dollars worth of supplies were hauled over these trails. In the early days the Prairie

River trail, altho it was practically all cordoroy was at times practically impassable and to this day old timers tell of coming down from Wabana in boats and landing where, what is now known as the foot of rock crusher hill, two miles north of Grand Rapids.

With the year 1880 many loggers entered this fine stand of pine, McAllister and Hasty came at that time, Lorence and Colwell in 1882. This was also the smallpox year which raised so much havoc amongst the lumberjacks and Indians. The Itasca Lumber Co. logged from 1889 to 1903. This firm built the permanent dams at Clearwater, Wabana, Bluewater, and Trout Lakes. Many will remember Wm. LaCroix under whose of the Hansen Lakes. Jack Bosley now living on his farm east of the Experimental Farm was one of their camp foremen. They constructed the Hansen dams and maintained the dams in the Wabana district up to about 1905. Blake Bros. came in about 1890.

In 1894, this section welcomed the first settler logger, resort man and a pioneer in its fullest terms. A man of whom all the old timers and past generations spoke of with the highest regard, Dave Cochran. Up to this time the Indian and logger had held sway, sway over this great fishing and hunting ground. A few old lumberjacks remember the sites of Indian camps which were located on Balgillow Island and on upper Buckman Cove. To West Day's crew undoubtedly goes the honor of cutting the first trail from Grand Rapids to Clearwater and Wabana Lake. This trail later became known as the Prairie River road and in its early day wound from one logging camp to another. They established their first camp about ¼ mile north of the lower Wabana bridge on the old Prairie River trail and this remained his main camp during his Wabana operations. It is to this day known as the Day field and has furnished hay for most all of the settlers in the Clearwater section

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lished their headquarters on the east shores of the third of the Hansen Lakes. Jack Bosley now living on his farm east of the Experimental Farm was one of their camp foremen. They constructed the Hansen dams and maintained the dams in the Wabana district up to about 1905. Blake Bros. came in about 1890.

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Dues Payment and Address Update Form. Please cut off and mail.

Annual \$20, membership checks can be made out to: Wabana Chain of Lakes Association

Address #1, Permanent Address:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code: _____

Which months of the year for mailing? _____

Address #2, Seasonal Address:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Which months of the year for mailing? _____

Mail this form and/ or your membership dues to.-

Wabana Chain of Lakes Association, Cathy Rudolph, Treasurer 36542 Havenwood Drive,

Grand Rapids, MN 55744

His family moved in October 1894, his son John built the same year on what is now called the Nesbit Point, on Bass Bay, the thorofare into Wakeman Bay. A few years later

John built what is now known as the Cochran place, east of the Wakeman farm. The honor of being the first white child born in Wabana beyond any question of doubt belongs to Min-

Minnie Cochran, now Mrs. Al Furley of Grand Rapids, to Mr. and Mrs. John Cochran. Dave seems to have had severe difficulties in these days in securing a school but did succeed in

having a teacher for the months of July, August and September 1887, the first pupils being Hazel and Pearl Cochran, May and Ina Wakeman, Frank Johnston and George Wasson. Mrs. Ida Martin was the first teacher. Mr. and Mrs. Martin built a cabin on the shores of Wabana Lake, now used as the picnic grounds at the Hotel. This cabin was later destroyed by fire. Having three children and no teacher, Dave moved with his family to Grand Rapids for two years until he lost his home in town, by fire. During his absence Mr. Cochran secured Mr. and Mrs. Schirpen as caretaker. During his stay in Grand Rapids, he met the Wakeman family who were at that time living on Pokegama Lake and located them on Wabana Lake. Wakemans moved to Wabana In 1898 and up to the time of the death of Mrs. Wakeman in 1925, the Wakeman's were always farmers, at no time did they devote much time to hunters or fisherman. For their hospitality the Wakeman's have been and are famous.

Mr. and Mrs. Wakeman would greet and feed you, where everybody was welcome.

The Wakeman family played a very important part in the community life of Wabana township, in recent years being of the best and most active members of the local club. With the passing of Mrs. Wakeman the Wabana community suffered a great loss. Mr. Wakeman left after her death for Oregon to make his home with his daughter. His sons, Frank and Roy are still in the community, Frank living on the old Poland place, and Roy spends his time there when not employed elsewhere.

In the spring of 1900 Dave built the hull of a 26 foot steam boat. Anton Hagalee for many years used this hull, but it now reposes peacefully on the shores of the thorofare between Interlachen and Trout Lake. This boat was equipped with a six horsepower engine, the following year he constructed a 35 foot boat

for the same engine. He carried passengers up to the Martin Place on Trout Lake as well as fishing parties over the lake. Incidentally Dr. McGee and M. S. Burroughs built the first cabins for a summer home in 1903 at the head of Trout Lake, on the hill near Martins.

In 1901 Dave decided to build a new home and in consequence was the old and famous Wabana Hotel. They tell stories about the terrible roads, and many breakdowns in hauling lumber and materials for this large building. But in September 1902 Dave with his family moved into the hotel, with accommodations for his family as well as for hunters and fishermen and kept a full house the year round. Sportsmen from all parts of the United States and one from old England were guests here. It served as a hotel until 1928, when it was destroyed by fire. (More later)

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