



Services Available

**Pontoon hauling - to access \$35.00 – to dealership
for tune-up, call for price**

**Garden tilling, lawn aerating, minor prop repair – call
for pricing**

Contact: Pat 743-4263

For Sale:

Dry Red Oak Firewood \$150.00 per cord 4ft by 4ft by 8ft.
Call Denny at 743-2549

For Sale:

Weatherguard Round Top Instant Shelter, grey, 12' wide x 8'6" high x 24' long w/ heavy duty base plates. Great condition.
\$375. Located near shore on east side of Rush Lake.
Contact Warren or Ruth Cowell: 559-304-7805 or email warrencowell@juno.com

For Sale:

2004 Polaris Sportsman 500 HO ATV – blue
winch and Glacier plow system, windshield and front gear bag
extra set of turf tires (4) on wheels, 1500 # jack (to change tires)
cover, Polaris helmet w/breath deflector (2)
only 98 hours / 685 miles!!!
Like new, only better (all the goodies are included)
\$5,300.00
Call Sue at 612-203-8134

For Sale:

1994 Glastron SSV 170 open bow runabout – blue and white
1994 Johnson 88hp V-4 outboard
1994 Shorlandr roller trailer
Custom cover, ski pylon, fenders, anchor
Eagle fish finder
Absolutely beautiful condition – runs great!
\$5,500.00
Call Sue at 612-203-8134

For Sale:

Vibo aluminum 2400# cantilever boat lift
Canopy, wheels, 12 v. LiftMate, boat guides and bunks
Excellent condition
\$1,200.00
Call Sue at 612-203-8134

For Sale:

Curved corner sectional sofa – 88" x 88" – two piece – recliners at each end
Gray, mauve, teal, and white patterned fabric
Excellent condition - \$250.00
Call: Sue at 612-203-8134 to see

For Sale:**4 SNOWMOBILES**

1998 Arctic Cat ZL 500 – black
studs, carbides, cover, windshield bag, belt -- 1200 miles – like new condition \$2,200

1998 Arctic Cat ZR 500 – green
carbides, cover, windshield bag, belt -- 1550 miles – excellent condition \$2,200

1994 Polaris Super Sport 440 fan -- white
plastic skis, carbides, cover, belt -- 3500 miles – great running condition
cosmetic damage to front bumper \$550

1991 Arctic Cat El Tigre (529 cc) – black
carbides, cover, spare belt, hitch -- 4400 miles – great running condition
gas leak at fuel pump line (easy fix) \$550

Triton 2-place aluminum tilt trailer
spare tire and wheel, salt shield, ski glides and track protectors
excellent condition \$950

helmets, gloves, and other snowmobile gear \$25 and up
Call Chuck at 612-709-7782

For Sale:

Nordic Trac elliptical trainer Model CX 938
Programmable time / resistance / cardiac
Excellent condition – like new - \$200.00
Call Sue at 612-203-8134

For Sale:

Schwinn Air-Dyne exercise cycle
Electronic controls
Excellent condition -- \$176.00
Call Chuck at 612-709-7782

For Sale:

Antique kitchen table – two drop leaves
Pine top – black painted legs
36” x 24” closed; 36” x 44” open
Very nice used condition -- \$50.00
Call Chuck at 612-709-7782

For Sale:

Techline work center – light oak includes:
Desk – 30” x 86”, Typing trolley – 18” x 51” File unit – 1 file and 2 drawers – 20” x 24”
Modular – many arrangements possible
Excellent condition -- \$75.00

Steelcase high performance high back desk chair
Burgundy fabric seat and back with black base and arms
Extremely comfortable and ergonomic – \$75.00
Call Chuck at 612-709-7782

Remember, ads are free to BLCA Members. Get your information to **Carol Kufner** at 743-3753 before the 20th of the month.

THIS WE REMEMBER by Kenzie Phelps

Vern and Gert Blomgren

Married in Chicago, lived and worked in St Paul, built a cabin, then a home, and ended up on Rush Lake after retirement: this is a short history of Gert and Vern and some of their fond lake memories.

In 1943 while in radio school for the US Navy, Vern and Gert were married in Chicago. Not a big wedding, they had two witnesses for the ritual, both sailor friends of Vern. Or as Gert put it: "I had a sailor for a bride's maid."

They bought property from John Stimler in 1953. Stimler had purchased much of the land on the east side of Rush and divided it into 50 ft. lots. Vern and Gert, along with Gert's sister Norma, bought what they thought was a 100 ft. lot. But Stimler actually had sold them 2 fifties, so their lot on the east side of Rush lake now is fifty feet on the lake widening to 75 ft. by the road.

When Vern and Gert first started looking for property, Gert and sister Norma got together and decided to buy lake property jointly. They got out a Minnesota map, stuck a pin where they lived, made a circle and started looking. Their first visit was to North Branch, but the property owner wasn't there, so they drove west towards the Briggs Lake chain. They ended up in Clear Lake, and after getting directions, ended up at John Stimlers. "He showed us a couple of lots, one we couldn't afford, and bought this one for \$300. We made payments of \$50/year until paid off."

Where their garage is now was their cabin. According to Vern: "Built by 2 amateurs. Me and my brother-in-law Jerome Sandowski. We built it by hand using hand saws and hammers." When they would run out of nails, they would head to Cottonwood Beach for nails and inevitably stay for a couple of beers. "After a while the owner would have the beer delivery man set aside a case of beer for me, as long as I brought the empties back." For most of their early years on Rush Lake, Cottonwood Beach was the center of social life on the lakes.

They started building their house in 1981-82, first the lower level and then the upper. When it was finished in 1985, they moved to Rush Lake for good. Vern had retired in 1983 after 43 years in the tape division at 3M, Gert in 1985 from from the Ramsey County Recorder's Office.

What was it like for Vern and Gert living on the lake in the mid fifties and on? "Lots of sand burrs. There was no electricity or gas, but we did have a kerosene stove and lamp." Among other things they did by kerosene lamp, they remember picking ticks off of their kids. Norma [Gert's sister] had the last property to the south of them, so their kids had a great play area all to themselves.

While they were building their cabin, they would drive up and back on Saturdays and then again on Sundays. Roads from Highway 10 were all gravel and washboardy. What is now 115th Ave was a rolling road, and their kids would beg them to drive faster and faster over the small hills to get that queasy feeling kids love so well. While the men were working on the cabin, Gert and her sister Norma would often go fishing. There was good fishing at the time [sunnies, crappies and bass], although they would have to come in to cook for the men at mealtimes.

continued on next page

Vern and Gert Blomgren (continued)

Back then there were numerous frogs, and their dog would start hopping like a frog when they caught frogs in the grass and along the lakeshore. Their outdoor biffy was actually inside their boathouse, which is where their children would nap in their cribs.

Bit by bit they cleared out the sumac and other brush between their cabin and the lake. The water level would come up every spring, and then recede. Because their beach area was too mucky, they would take their kids over to the point across the lake below the nursing home, anchor, and let the kids swim in the shallows. Another swimming destination was Cottonwood Beach.

One of Gert's earliest memories of lake living was sitting outside by the boathouse and cooking and enjoying the fresh air. "Actually, we just warmed up the meals we had cooked at home." Vern remembers trying to cut the grass with a rented push mower from Clear Lake, but not working. The grass was so long he had to use a scythe and a hand sickle to get it cut. They also remember having lake weeds, much more so than now.

On Briggs, down the way from the channel to Julia, they would often have pontoon parties with other lake residents: hook up, open the gates, move from pontoon to pontoon tasting all of the snacks, stop at Gene Johnson's for burgers [he always brought a grill and did the meat]. Gene and Vi Johnson were also known for providing live music when people around the lakes had parties.

Reflecting about the biggest changes they have seen, Vern said improved roads and the cleaner lakes with less weeds. Gert smiled and thought for a minute: "Appreciation of the way things look." Needing an explanation, she said: "Back then we saw work. Now we enjoy the beauty." She said it feels like being away from civilization a while: "Looking across from our home to the point between Rush and Briggs. There is a peacefulness, more a feeling of freedom."

If they were each granted a wish about the lakes, Vern would go for better control of the water level, and cleaner, clearer water. Gert would have their kids live closer to them.



New Board Member Profile: Vice President, Ken Gossett

My wife and I purchased our home on Elk Lake in August, 2005 and have lived here full time since 2008. We have four children and six grandchildren who live in the surrounding area. I work at Opportunity Manor in Sartell as the Development Director, teach part-time and belong to the Sartell Lions Club. I enjoy fishing on Elk Lake, playing golf when I can, and look forward to serving on the Briggs Lake Chain Association Board.