

**Good,  
clean fun**  
Falls native part of  
snowmobile team

**A9**



**Terrific  
trip**  
Indus field trip  
goes to VNP

**B6**



# International Falls Journal

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**Special focus makes  
for special forum**

12th Annual International Rainy — Lake of the Woods Watershed Forum considers effects of IJC rule curve

**BY LAUREL BEAGER**  
Editor

Mark Edlund, senior scientist at the Science Museum of Minnesota's St. Croix Watershed Research Station, presents information about historic phosphorus loads in Lake of Woods Wednesday at the forum.

**Forum to A7 >**

**Gail Faveri, Canadian chair of the water levels committee of the International Rainy — Lake of the Woods Watershed Board, presents information about the performance of the 2000 rule curves Wednesday.**

## RANIER



STAFF PHOTO BY LAUREL BEAGER

Stop signs have joined the newly-installed crossing arms at the Spruce Street railroad crossing in Ranier.

## Traffic increase to cease soon

**BY SPENSER BICKETT**  
Staff Writer

Changes to the railroad crossing on Spruce Street in Ranier continue to move forward, a local official reports.

Ranier is currently seeing a spike in rail traffic at the crossing, Ranier City Administrator Sherill Gautreaux said. An email the city received from Canadian National Railway spokesman Patrick Waldron cited outside factors as to why more trains are using the crossing.

"Due to an incident in Ontario and the closure of a stretch of

CN railroad north of the Great Lakes that carries train traffic between Winnipeg and Toronto, Ranier is experiencing a temporary increase in the number of trains coming through per day," Waldron wrote. "This is due to re-routes of train traffic that would normally head east along a stretch of track that runs north of the Great Lakes. While these last few weeks have been busy generally for train traffic in Ranier and Fort Frances, it may be even more noticeable this week."

**Traffic to A7 >**

## MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE

## Rep. Dill bill would modify wetland rules

### Proposal allows mitigation in watershed of greatest need

**BY LAUREL BEAGER**  
Editor

If Paul Revere filled in 50 acres of wetlands each year from the day he was born in 1734 to today, he would just now be reaching the point of filling 1 percent of Koochiching County's 1.4 million acres of wetland.

"Let Paul Revere ride," Minnesota Rep. David Dill said.

Dill has sponsored with Rep. David Hancock, who represents Lake of the Woods County and beyond, a bill for alternative wetland mitigation options to

be established in counties that retain more than 80 percent of presettlement wetlands.

In arguing for the bill, Dill asked county Environmental Services Director Dale Olson to provide some facts about county wetlands.

According to Olson, total mitigation in the past seven years was 25 acres, with nearly 20 of those acres for one project.

"Those big projects don't happen very often but let's keep it in the picture," Olson said. "The seven-year average is 3.6 acres/year."

Other facts provided by Olson include:

■ Koochiching County has 1.4 million acres of wetland. One percent of that is 14,000 acres.

**Wetland to A7 >**

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