

LOCALNEWS

Dock lost to flood is found

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

What was lost, is found and it's restored some faith in humanity for one Rainy Lake cabin owner.

Since the flooding began on Rainy Lake, Chris Bailey has been getting reports via telephone photographs from his cousin Sean Bahr, an International Falls resident, about the status of his cabin.

Like many lake shore property owners, Bailey, who lives near the Twin Cities, had placed barrels on the docks at the island cabin that had been in his family.

"We kept getting photos and seeing less and less barrels," Bailey told The Journal last week. "And then unfortunately, a little over two weeks ago Sean said he was saddened because he had to call and tell me it was all gone."

Bailey said he didn't quite understand the term "all gone" until Bahr sent a photo showing shoreline where a dock, that was constructed two years ago, once was. He said the photo caused "a day of mourning" for the family.

Bailey, his wife Lisa, and their family traveled to Rainy Lake, put the boat in and went to the cabin to see for themselves the condition of the island cabin and its surroundings.

While repairing a few things damaged by the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bailey's lost and found dock has been tied in Tilson Bay for a couple weeks.

flooding, Bailey said Lisa suggesting posting a photo and information on Facebook about their lost dock.

"We were thinking it would be a far stretch if a lot of docks were lost, and we had seen boards washed up in our area," he said.

So Lisa posted it and within one hour, someone replied that he was scouring the shoreline and another half hour later, a women replied saying she'd seen a dock with blue barrels on it that matched the Bailey's dock tied up in the Tilson Bay area.

By then, it was dark and Bailey said he waited until 4 a.m. the next morning, put his boat in at Tilson landing and there he could see across the bay a dock along the shoreline with one blue barrel on it. He went immediately to it and found it was his dock, nearly completely in tact.

"Someone was kind enough to tie it up at different anchor points on land," he said.

While the dock's journey wasn't much more than a

couple miles, the recent high winds and flooding water, it could have been more of an adventure.

The tow back to the cabin took about one and half hours, and he said he was met by his family.

"Everybody yelled, and were pretty excited, and we posted pictures and thanked the lady that told us about it on Facebook," he said.

Bailey said he feels fortunate that his dock was found undamaged.

"We were so lucky, and I totally feel more than lucky that we got something like that back," he said, adding he had resigned to the dock being smashed against the rocks somewhere along Rainy Lake's more than 1,500 miles of shoreline.

Bailey said he's so appreciative that someone tied the dock to the shoreline, keeping it from moving further and possibly from being struck by an unsuspecting boater.

"It's nice to know that someone would take the time to tie it up and that

someone would respond (to the Facebook posting,)" he said. "I don't do Facebook, but it's the best thing that has ever happened on Facebook."

He said the dock had gained a bit of notoriety from being tied for about two weeks at Tilson landing, a popular boat access on Rainy Lake.

"It was sad to tow back, past the neighbors, a lot have got their docks but a lot also have sandbags protecting their properties. It's been a rough year for everybody up here."

As Bailey relayed the story, he said he was looking out his cabin window about 50-feet above the water on a rock. The dock is floating out there, secured as well as possible, but he said he's sure his cousin will continue to check on it for him after the family returns to the Twin Cities.

"It's good to let people know there are good people out there and hopefully you can have some more good stories come out of this flooding," he said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Red Cross provided support in Koochiching County during the flooding.

United Way contributes to American Red Cross

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

To aid in the flood relief efforts, United Way of Northeastern Minnesota recently contributed \$4,000 to the American Red Cross Northland Chapter. The services of American Red Cross were requested by Koochiching County for disaster relief on June 12 and its support has been crucial in the wake of the recent flooding, according to the United Way staff. The donation from United Way of Northeastern Minnesota will be directly allocated to Koochiching County.

"Our role in the area has been primarily serving meals to people sandbagging their homes and to volunteers aiding in the community," Dan Williams of the American Red Cross Northland

Chapter told United Way staff.

"We are pleased to be able to provide support to the American Red Cross for their efforts and those of the countless volunteers in our region," said Julie Ehrman, United Way of Northeastern Minnesota advisory board chairwoman. "Though the flooding was incredibly damaging, the community has truly come together and united, which is a wonderful thing to see. Neighbors helping neighbors, giving back in our own communities – that's what the mission of United Way is all about."

Taking part in the donation was, from Boise Paper, Sue White, Deb Harris, Julie Ehrman, Traci Saari, Leesa Palm, and from American Red Cross Dan Williams and John Decker.

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