

Glacial Minnesota Woman: A Glimpse into the Past

By Kristina Rafn

Eight thousand years ago, a teenage girl steps onto the lake ice unaware of the growing network of spiderweb cracks growing under her feet. A sickening crack and she is gone. People go missing every day, glaciers melt and make lakes, lakes dry up and eventually, the groundwork is laid for a new tomorrow.

Most residents of Minnesota are comparative newcomers to the United States. Immigration to Minnesota in the 1850s caused the nation's largest population boom, an increase of 2,831 percent! Though Minnesota became a state in 1856 there is one resident who has been here significantly longer.

In 1931 a road construction crew working on U.S. Route 59 near Pelican Rapids, Minn. made an interesting archeological discovery. While excavating a varved deposit, silts in horizontal layers formed at the bottom of glacial lakes, a human skull was found at a depth of nine feet. More digging revealed a nearly complete skeleton.

Finding human remains on road construction may seem unusual, but unfortunately this wasn't the case in 1931.

Harry Siggerud, the last living person from the crew, was interviewed in the 1970s, where he said finding skeletons of First Nations peoples was commonplace, five or six being found on this site.

Siggerud noted that this skull was visibly different, saying "but these bones... were much larger, the bones themselves, and the head, was much different. The head was longer and, I'd say, more shaped like an ape...long, teeth and the body structure, was short and heavier bones, all the way around."

Along with the skeleton a possible dagger or scrapping tool made from elk's horn and a conch shell from a large snail

native to Florida were found, indicating possible human habitation and trade from Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico. Later archeological digs would also uncover a timber wolf tooth, painted turtle shell, and various animal bone and bone tool fragments.

The skeleton and artifacts were wrapped in newspaper and sent to the University of Minnesota where radiocarbon dating and the fact the bones had mineralized, placed the age of the skeleton at 8,000 years old (between 6009-5869 B.C.), making it one of the oldest examples of human remains in North America. Not long before this discovery it had been believed that humans had only come to North America in the last two thousand years.

The true cause of Glacial Woman's death is unknown, but the condition of the remains and their discovery in a former glacial lake have led researchers to conclude drowning by falling through ice or falling out of a boat to be a probable cause of her death.

A monument three miles outside the city of Pelican Rapids marks where the remains were found, but the remains themselves have been buried in an undisclosed location in South Dakota. The young woman doing yet another vanishing act much like the one eight thousand years ago.

Special thanks to Sally Williams and the Glacial Minnesota Woman Organization (GMWO) for their preservation of Minnesota Woman information and resources.

Editor's note: Kristina Rafn is a newspaper operations coordinator and contributing writer for the Lake County Press. Her interests are varied, and her curiosity, when piqued, demands answers. Rafn will share her research on a myriad of topics in future articles.

Lorna Landvik and Sarah Stonich – Road Tripping Writers in the Arrowhead Library System

After cooling their heels throughout the pandemic, Lorna Landvik and Sarah Stonich are overdue for a road trip! They'll make the rounds in the Arrowhead Library System with readers, share what they've gotten up to - and maybe even what they've written! You know these Minnesota authors for such books as *Chronicles of a Radical Hag*, *Angry Housewives Eating Bon Bons*, *Vacationland*, and *Reeling*. Meet up with Sarah and Lorna in person to discover what writers share when

they talk about writing. Program length is 60 minutes and is recommended for ages 14 and up.

"We are absolutely thrilled to be hosting Lorna Landvik and Sarah Stonich," said ALS Regional Librarian Mollie Stanford. "It's an amazing experience to meet authors of this caliber and we are excited patrons will have this opportunity at libraries in the ALS region."

The Arrowhead Library System is pleased to present Road Tripping Writers with



Lorna Landvik

Lorna Landvik and Sarah Stonich, a free program being offered at the following locations:

- Monday, September 19, 1 p.m. Two Harbors Public Library
- Wednesday, September 14, 6 p.m. Silver Bay Public Library
- Thursday, September 15, 10:30 a.m. Ely Public Library
- Saturday, September 17, 6 p.m. Grand Marais Public Library
- Monday, September 19, 10:30 a.m. Duluth Public Library

• Monday, September 19, 1 p.m.

Two Harbors Public Library

This program, sponsored by Arrowhead Library System, was funded in part or in whole with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (ACFH). To learn more about Arrowhead Legacy Events, please see our calendar at www.alslib.info or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/alslibinfo.



Sarah Stonich

Sea Lamprey survey at Knife, Gooseberry, Split Rock Rivers Aug 16-26

The continuing battle against sea lampreys soon will come to locations in the local area. A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service assessment crew will conduct work on the Knife, Gooseberry and Split Rock Rivers (Lake County, Minnesota) Aug 16 - 26, 2022, to estimate the abundance of sea lampreys. The information gathered will be used to determine the need for sea lamprey control.

A first step in the control of sea lampreys is to survey streams tributary to the Great Lakes to determine the presence of lamprey larvae. Sea lampreys invaded the Great Lakes during the 1920s and have been a permanent, destructive element of the fishery ever since. Sea lampreys attach to fish with a suction cup mouth, rasp a hole through the fish's scales and skin, and feed on blood and body fluids. The average sea lamprey will destroy up to 40 lbs of fish during its parasitic phase.

Sea lamprey larvae hatch from eggs laid by adult lampreys in gravel nests, and drift into silty bottom areas where they burrow and live for several years. Also, larvae sometimes drift out of streams and settle in the immediate offshore areas near stream mouths. Failure to detect and subsequently eliminate larvae allows the lampreys to transform into parasitic adults and kill Great Lakes fish.

Fishery biologists and technicians conduct surveys for sea lamprey larvae in hundreds of Great Lakes streams each year. Most surveys are conducted by electrofishing, but in deep waters crews use Bayluscide 3.2% Granular Sea Lamprey Larvicide, a lampricide approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Health Canada Pest Management Regulatory Agency. This lampricide is specially formulated onto sand granules and covered with a time-release coating. The formulation is sprayed over a measured surface area of water where it sinks to the bottom, rapidly dissolves, and causes the larval sea lampreys to leave their burrows and swim to the surface where they are collected.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Health Canada Pest Management Regulatory Agency have reviewed human health and environmental safety data for the lampricides, and in 2003 concluded that Bayluscide poses no unreasonable risk to the general population and the environment when applied at concentrations necessary to detect larval sea lampreys. Applications are conducted in accordance with State of Minnesota permits.

The sea lamprey control program is formulated and implemented by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and U.S. Geological Survey. The Commission initiated chemical control of sea lampreys in 1958. Since that time the highly successful program has contributed significantly to the maintenance of the \$7 billion Great Lakes sport and commercial fisheries.

The Commission is committed to delivering a sea lamprey control program that practices good environmental stewardship. To support the continued safe use of lampricides the Commission recently conducted a series of studies at a total cost of \$6 million to assess the effects of the lampricides on human health and the environment. In addition to these studies the Commission has implemented a research program to develop alternative control techniques. The Commission also is developing a strategy to increase the number of barriers on sea lamprey-producing streams, and is conducting research into barrier design, traps, attractants, and biological control.

For additional information in the U.S. call 1-800-472-9212 and in Canada call 1-800-553-9091. TTY users may reach the Marquette or Ludington Biological Stations through the Michigan State Relay Service at 1-800-649-3777.

Recall vote official

by Kitty Mayo

On Friday, August 12 the Two Harbors city council met to canvass the votes in the recall election of mayor Chris Swanson.

The unofficial vote totals from the August 9 election had already predicted that Swanson would be recalled by 86 percent of the votes cast. On Friday that election decision was certified as official, ending Swanson's second term the same day.

Mayoral duties will be fulfilled by council president Ben Redden until a special election in November to elect a mayor to complete the remainder of Swanson's term.

Other certified votes from the primary included confirmation that Miles Woodruff (incumbent) and Uriah Hefter will compete for the Ward 1 council seat. In the contest for the councilor-at-large seat, Katelyn Cobbs and Mike Kassell will advance to the November election.

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Checking the vote totals