

80th Annual Fisherman's Picnic

July 29 - August 2, 2009

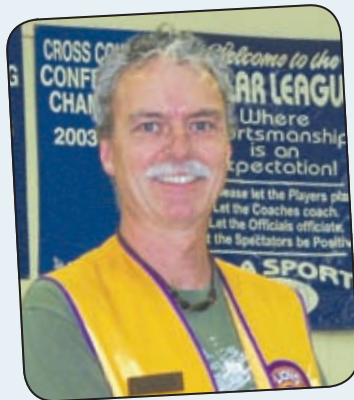


Photo courtesy of Cook County Historical Society

An exciting competition of Fisherman's Picnic past was a Herring Filet Contest. These gentlemen got into the spirit of things in hats and ties in 1948 Fisherman's Picnic. The event seems to have been a crowd pleaser. And notice—just about everyone is wearing their Fisherman's Picnic button! See more historic Fisherman's Picnic photos inside!

Would you like to help identify people in old photos at the Cook County Historical Society? There will be a series of coffees held this fall and winter to offer people the opportunity to peruse old pictures in hopes that much needed identities can be recorded. If you'd like to take part, call the museum at (218) 387-2883.

Welcome to the 80th annual Fisherman's Picnic!



The picnic activities start Wednesday, July 29 with the Grand Marais Lioness Buffet Dinner, and conclude on Sunday August 2, 2009, with the parade and raffle.

The Fisherman's Picnic is one of the oldest festivals in Minnesota, as

well as one of the premier gatherings in Grand Marais, Minnesota. Bring your family and friends to the North Shore to enjoy all the events scheduled for the weekend. Relax by Lake Superior and listen to music by the local musicians, try your hand at the rock skipping contest or the log rolling contest. The kids love the tractor pull and you don't have to be a Minnesotan to try the loon calling! There are lots more activities for the whole family.

The picnic is the main fundraiser for Grand Marais Lions. All the profits from the picnic go to local charities such as: scholarships, eye examinations and glasses for low income students and Scouts, and to support all the activities sponsored by Lions International. These include hearing and sight

conservation, diabetic programs, youth programs, and disaster relief, just to name a few.

Be sure to support these activities by buying tickets for the big raffle grand prize of \$10,000. You could also win one of the 100 additional prizes.

The Fisherman's Picnic is truly a community event. The Grand Marais Lions could not conduct the picnic without the support of local business and nonprofit organizations.

Whether you come for one day or the weekend, we hope you enjoy the 80th Fisherman's Picnic in Grand Marais, Minnesota.

Max Bichel
Grand Marais Lions President

Fondest thoughts of Fisherman's Picnic

Jane Howard

In anticipation of Fisherman's Picnic, several community members were asked to describe their favorite Fisherman's Picnic memory or activity. Here are their answers:



Lars Scannell

The fish burgers were what came most quickly to Lars' mind. "They're amazing," he said. He said he also likes the jousting.

"He likes all of it," Lars' dad, Tim, said. "It's, like, made for him."



Kieran Scannell

Lars' older brother, Kieran, said he looks forward to the five-mile trail run on Pincushion. He kept thinking about all the things his little brother liked, however, and said, "Lars likes the bingo tent. He's there all the time." Upon thinking of the bingo tent, Lars pointed out that he won a nice prize at midnight one year.



Brenna Hay

"One of my favorite things to do is walk around and look at stuff with friends," she said.



Neil Hansen

Neil grew up in Lutsen and said he would come into town during Fisherman's Picnic and spend the weekend at his cousin Jeff Mark's house. Neil always looked forward to the carnival that would come to town, he said, and he always hoped he'd have 50 cents or so to spend downtown. He also enjoyed

seeing people he wouldn't ordinarily see during summer vacation.



Pat Zankman

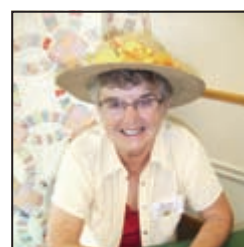
Pat's favorite memory? "When my son Nathan came out and with his cousins won the hospital bedpan race called 'Silence is Golden.' ...It was one of those delightful races and I'm sorry they don't still have it." The object of the race was to see who could finish the race the fastest and with the most water in their bedpan.



Rod Wannebo

Rod, who grew up in Grand Marais, said "I can't think of anything except cold weather." He remembers one year when the Picnic started out really hot and then got down to 40 degrees in a very short period of time. He said he also liked the parades. Now that he has retired, he enjoys playing in the Fisherman's Picnic

tennis tournament. "I get excited about that," he said.



Donna Clothier

Donna said she used to enjoy all the sidewalk sales during Fisherman's Picnic. One of her favorite memories happened about 25 years ago just after she had returned from a long canoe trip. She was feeling pretty strong, and her brother-in-law convinced her to enter the canoe races with him. They

got all the way out to the buoy when he yelled, "Come on now, give it all you've got!" All she's got? She had already given it, she thought! She also remembered her husband and nephew crashing into another canoe and capsizing in another race.



Mike Carlson, Grand Marais Lions Club

"My favorite Fisherman's Picnic activity is thawing fish!" Mike said. He loves going to the freezer with his glasses fogging up "in near-blind conditions" and hauling across a slippery floor 50-pound boxes of fish packed in ice. Mike also really enjoys the Library Friends book sale. "The parade is always fun," he added. "It stretches out much longer than you'd expect for a small town."

