

July 2017

The hubbub of July 4th is over. Most of the cabins are empty now with just a few boats and people left moving around. My wife and I go for a canoe on a very calm gloriously warm and dry Monday morning. The water on the river is so clear that we look down to find interesting things versus looking up. We canoe over and above a pair of swimming loons. We have canoed by loons before but never have had them swim underneath the canoe and I can't believe how fast they are and how clearly I can see them. Next we watch a muskrat swim under the canoe and head for the lily pads. We see yellow and white lily pads blooming in the accenting sun.

I can't help but think how blessed we are to have such healthy lakes and rivers. Many of the waterways in Minnesota are so polluted and cloudy that the DNR is not even going to try and revive them.

We are now at the turn around point and I'm glad to see signs along the shoreline of a resort that implore their guests to please utilize the docks as they are attempting to stop soil erosion on their shoreline. It makes me feel great to realize that there are many others that cherish this special place we call "The Eau Claire Lakes". It was a life long dream of my Dad to own a small cabin where he could fish in quiet bays and look at the scenery. I know that my Dad who bought this place 42 years ago would be pleased that this area is still pristine.

Musings by Kevin Shriver