



Musing

October 2021 - "Neighbors"

Kevin Shriver, Middle Eau Claire Lake

"A good neighbor is a very desirable thing." –Thomas Jefferson

October is a great month to reflect and take stock. The Eau Claire Lakes area is certainly blessed with clear water, clear skies and great folks.

Reflecting on this past year I think about my 95-year-old neighbor who died this summer. He was definitely a character and I really enjoyed his jokes and stories. When I first met him he seemed kind of nosey but I soon realized he was just a friendly and happy guy. I really enjoyed our banter back and forth and I'm very grateful he took the effort to reach out when he did. The two of us chainsawed our way out to the road after a terrible windstorm, laughing and cussing the entire time. I knew him for almost 50 years and I will miss him.

I have other neighbors that I have also known for 50 years and we constantly make fun of each other, check in on each other's families (they even went to my mother's 100th birthday) and help each other, borrowing tools and vehicles. I think if you asked them they would say it is a very slanted relationship with them helping me about 85% of the time. The 8-year-old who was always coming over looking for a playmate now has a baby of his own. I really enjoy coming back from a bike ride and yelling out wisecracks to whomever I see in our neighborhood. This beautiful place we are lucky enough to be part of wouldn't be the same to me without these fantastic neighbors.

Most of us spend much of our summer time entertaining friends and family that don't live in the immediate area, but don't forget to get to know your neighbors. They are an under-recognized asset in our community.

Hey Don, do you know why lumberjacks are bad at fixing computers? Because they only know how to log out.