



Busy with the holidays? We know you are, but don't forget to send in your membership!

## Shore Lines Extra

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### Ice Breaking News

According to residents Bob Gullotty and Fran McGee, last Saturday they were awakened by an unusual event.

"Very early Saturday morning, we were half awakened by a crunching, rumbling road that sounded like a freight train. A little while later, we were fully wakened as the roar, now even louder than before, began to draw closer and closer. The tug boat [used by bridge employees] was now coming from the south and heading towards the bridge site. About 200 feet behind the tug, we saw what appeared to be a camouflaged duck boat, laboring to follow the path opened by the tug. The light was poor Saturday morning, but through field glasses it appeared to be the same boat carrying two men and a dog that we had observed a couple of times in the last week heading south on the lake late in the afternoon and then returning the following morning. The duck boat contributed to the roar as it's metal hull banged and clanged against the broken ice, it's engine spewing steam as it slowly pushed through and against the ice filled waters. Eventually, the duck boat make it to the open water at the bridge site and turned towards the boat ramp."

*While Bob and Fran watched the rescue,  
Al McCauley photographed the entire event.*



*Duck hunters stuck on the frozen lake*



*The rescue barge nears*

*continued next page . . .*



*The barge had no trouble breaking the ice*



*Above the barge breaks the ice for the boat to follow*



*The barge broke the ice until it reached open water with the hunters following until they were able to get to the launch site.*

As written in the December 3rd Extra by John Nolan, Bridge Engineer:

*“Please note that a thin or no-ice situation will be present in the work area around the bridge as work continues through the winter months. Ice fishermen, snowmobilers, and all winter activities are prohibited from the work zone around the bridge during this time. Large signs will be erected on the shores to discourage any of these activities.”* As an addendum to this, John wrote that the thin/no ice distance from the new bridge will be 500 feet in both directions . . . The large signs about this have now been erected.”

John coincidentally ran into an ice fisherman on Saturday at Stewart’s who had all his gear in his pickup truck and was planning to access the lake through the State Boat Launch. He told the fisherman about the open water that day due to the rescue. *[You may want to tell anyone who likes to ice fish the creek about the problems accessing the lake around the bridge this year.]*

We all realize that the bridge closure has caused some difficulties and inconveniences, but it is imperative that the work zone be kept open for the contractor to stay on schedule.

Tim Blodgett from Saratoga Tackle spoke to the barge pilot to ascertain how far they planned on keeping the creek ice free, mainly for the purpose of ice fishermen that would be setting up on the creek. He was informed that the only reason the barge went up the distance it did was to rescue the hunters. *(It might be a good idea to stop by Saratoga Tackle to get information on where to access the lake for fishing this winter.)*

It’s just the beginning of the winter season at the lake, so take notice of thin ice and don’t venture out until you check the thickness of the ice.