

ODE TO A WARRIOR 2015

BY: PHIL HUNSICKER

**SIT DOWN MY CHILDREN,
AND YOU SHALL HEAR,
OF A RESPECTED WATER WARRIOR,
WHOSE EXPLOITS ARE KNOWN FAR AND NEAR.**

**TO MANY HE'S A HERO.
TO MANY HE'S A FRIEND.
TO THOSE OF US WHO CARE ABOUT LAKES,
HE'S BEEN NOTHING LESS THAN A GODSEND.**

**HE'S BEEN PLAYING ON HIS LAKE SINCE HE WAS A BOY.
THAT'S A LOT OF SUMMERS IN THE WATER AND ON A BOAT.
HE'S GROWN INTO A MAN NOT LEADING A LIFE OF QUIET DESPERATION,
LIKE THE MASSES ABOUT WHICH THOREAU WROTE.**

**HE WRITES LAKE MANAGEMENT PLANS.
HE DIVES UNDERWATER TO MAP AIS VEGETATION, TOO.
HE UNDERSTANDS HARD SUBJECTS LIKE CHEMISTRY AND ECOLOGY.
IS THERE ANYTHING THIS GUY CAN'T DO?**

**IN MEETINGS HE'S RESPECTFUL AND SOFT SPOKEN.
THAT'S TOUGH BECAUSE YOU KNOW HOW SOME PEOPLE ARE,
BUT HE CAN HAVE AN INTELLIGENT CIVIL CONVERSATION,
WITH A DEVELOPER, AN APPLICATOR, AND EVEN THE DNR.**

**MUCH OF HIS WORK YOU CAN'T SEE.
AND FOR A PERSON LIKE HIM THAT'S JUST FINE.
FEW HUMAN EYES CAN TRULY APPRECIATE ANYWAY,
THE BEAUTY OF A SUBSURFACE SEPTIC SYSTEM DESIGN.**

**AND ON COUNTY ROAD 19 HE WAS "THE DRIVING FORCE."
ON THAT, THE FACTS ARE INCONTROVERTIBLE.
HE GOT IT DESIGNATED AS A NATURAL PRESERVATION ROUTE,
SO HE COULD ENJOY LONG DRIVES IN HIS VINTAGE CHRYSLER CONVERTIBLE.**

**"HE CARES," SAID ONE OF HIS ADMIRERS,
"AND IT SHOWS IN ALL ASPECTS OF HIS LIFE."
THE LAKE HAS EMBRACED HIM FOR OVER 65 YEARS,
SO HE TREATS IT LIKE ONE WOULD A DAUGHTER OR A WIFE.**

**OUR WATER WARRIOR IS A SHINING EXAMPLE,
THAT WE SHOULD GIVE MORE THAN WE TAKE.
HE IS LITERALLY A MAN ON A MISSION.
HE IS, OF COURSE, RON HEDLUND OF MISSION LAKE.**