

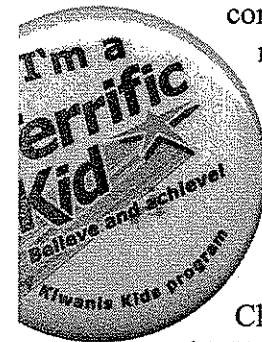
OUR VIEW

That's terrific!

You hear people talk about investing in the future, and how our kids are the future. The politicians certainly seem to be making plenty of noise along those lines on the campaign trail these days.

But someone in our community is putting their money — and their time — where others' mouths are. Between actual funds and in-kind donations, members of the Gaylord Kiwanis Club are investing about \$1,500 this school year to launch a great new program in area schools.

Though they've just unveiled the Terrific Kids program in five elementary schools in Iosco and Montmorency counties (a sixth school will join the ranks in just a couple of weeks), the program is far from fledgling. Kiwanis Clubs around the country have been participating in Terrific Kids, promoting self esteem and acknowledging kids "for



Wonder what we do in Lewiston?

Imagine That

People who do not live in northern Michigan often wonder what we do up here, especially during the long winter months. "You must be bored," they say.

I wish.

I lived in Gaylord for 13 years before moving to Lewiston, where I've lived since 1984.

Ah, Lewiston — a place where deer and snowmobiles outnumber people. I have swam in your lakes, I have traveled your backroads in search of the gracious white tailed deer or the elusive morel mushroom, and I have fallen in love with your people. My children have gone to your schools, were baptized in your churches, and ran, played, and rode bikes on your soil.

Before I let the proverbial cat out of the bag regarding what we do up here in God's country, first allow me to tell you who we are.

According to the United States Census 2000, Lewiston's population in 2000 was 990 people. And of the 8.6 square miles that make up the town of Lewiston, nearly 40 percent (3.3 square miles) of that area is water.

Lewiston is nestled in Montmorency

County, population 10,315. The county is 548 square miles, with an average of 18.8 people per square mile. That low number could be a reflection of the many miles of beautiful lakes.

On the contrary, Oakland County is 873 square miles, with a whopping 1,368.6 people per square mile. Wow, they must NOT be bored.

Suffocated, but not bored.

We measure distance in time rather than miles up here and just about everything we need, that we can't get in Lewiston, is a half of an hour away.

And if you are bored in this small town, it's your own fault.

Frankly, I cannot wait for the day I'm bored enough to join a club or organization, like the Moose, 50 Plus, Lions, Lioness, Historical Society, Sportsman's, American Legion, Friends of the Lewiston Library, or the Garden Club, just to name a few.

Maybe I will plant a garden. We get yards with our houses up here.

I look forward to having time to watch the Tigers play baseball in October in a friendly log cabin bar where everybody knows your name and they're always glad you came. Or allowing myself a few hours each week to join one of the town's many softball, bowling, dart, or pool leagues. Or just enjoy a nice dinner at the many quality restaurants in our quaint village.

Someday I may play bingo on Wednes-

day or Friday night or volunteer at the Lewiston School. Helpers are always welcome.

I could join the quilters at either the St. Francis or Bethlehem Lutheran churches, attend the various exercise classes, or enjoy year-round high school sports.

Speaking of sports, someday I hope I am bored enough to go boating, snowmobiling, or try cross country skiing or snowshoeing at Garland Resort. I may golf (but don't hold your breath), fish, hunt (with a camera), go four-wheeling, cycling, camping, swimming, or try curling. Lewiston is home to one of only three curling clubs in the northern Lower Peninsula.

Sponsored by the Lewiston Chamber of Commerce, we have sled dog racing (new this year), a mushroom festival, Lewiston Auto Show, craft shows, Timberfest, Harvest Auction, a tree lighting ceremony, and more.

For my son, Robert, Lewiston is home because of the wilderness. "I can't imagine falling asleep to sirens and horns beeping," he said.

My daughter, Danielle said she likes the quaintness of Lewiston, and feels safe.

So come up north, folks, and be bored with me ... if you can keep up.

— Jil Schult, a journalism intern working at the Herald Times, happily calls Lewiston home. You may write her at jes8193@yahoo.com.



Jil Schult